

Selectboard

<http://www.southhadley.org>

Once again, FY 07 was a busy year. The Selectboard addressed a wide variety of issues, initiated some new programs and activities, and made progress on some long-term items affecting the community.

The Board's FY 07 goals were as follows:

- To continue to explore all options for improved fiscal health of the Ledges Golf Club;
- To work with the Golf Clubhouse Options Committee and present to Town meeting a feasibility study and proposed construction options for a new clubhouse;
- To employ a new Superintendent of Public Works;
- To monitor landfill capacity and explore options for solid waste disposal after closure;
- To continue to pursue the implementation of the Comprehensive Recreation and Land Use Plan for the Holyoke Dam, trail and park system development, Texon demolition and to improve business opportunities and aesthetics in the Falls area;
- To explore shared services between town and school departments particularly in the area of facilities, technology and purchasing;
- To continue toward developing a long-term plan for the Town.

Finance and Budgeting

In November, the Town engaged Financial Advisory Associates (FAA) to undertake a study of capital needs and the Town's past allocations for these items. A report was presented to town officials and a new approach recommended for reviewing and funding capital items. In general terms, instead of the Town putting the cost savings of reduced debt service into the operating budget, it will be reserved for future capital acquisitions. In this way the Town will maintain a consistent commitment to its capital program. The FAA study reiterated that Free Cash should not be used for funding operating budgets. While the Town had been doing this to some degree in recent years, the Town's reliance on Free Cash to fund annual budgets has increased. This must be kept in check.

With Town Meeting approval, funds were approved for a long-awaited upgrade at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant and two final combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects. This work will commence in the summer of 2007.

Capital funds were also approved for purchasing a long-overdue truck and sander for the DPW at a cost of \$160,000. This truck replaced a 1981 model which was

older than the person assigned to drive it during a snowstorm.

Personnel

In July of 2006, a new three-year contract was settled with AFSCME Local 1703, comprised of the Town's Department of Public Works employees. The contract calls for a 3% annual increase through FY 2009 and institutes biweekly pay and performance evaluations for all staff.

After a long and extensive search process, the Selectboard appointed James Reidy as our new Superintendent of Public Works. Jim comes to us from the Town of Hatfield where he served as that community's DPW Superintendent for seven years. An electrical engineer, Jim possesses a wide variety of skills, including wastewater treatment plant licenses. He has already made a number of operational changes at the DPW and his customer services skills are particularly impressive. The Selectboard extends its sincere thanks to John Broderick, who so ably served (with assistance from Yem Lip, Town Engineer), as our Acting DPW Superintendent. Johnny served in this interim capacity much longer than anyone anticipated and did a terrific job.

A staff reorganization led to the job sharing of the Water Pollution Control operations. Employee Melissa LaBonte and Mike Cijka were appointed as Compliance Manager and Operations Manager respectively. Melissa and Mike have done exemplary work since their appointment last September.

In June we said good-bye to Solid Waste Coordinator Jane Southworth who retired after six year of service. Jane was very involved in our Recycling programs and landfill operations.

On a sadder note, the Town lost former Council on Aging Board of Directors chair Mike Herrick. Mike was a regular attendee to Selectboard meetings over the years and his warmth and demeanor will be sorely missed.

The Town continues to employ merit-based performance evaluations for its non-unit staff. This tool has enabled department heads and staff to identify goals, work toward common objectives, and has improved feedback and performance across the board. Early in 2007, an effort was initiated by AFSCME to organize the non-unit staff. At that time the main issue was that merit increases were distributed on a quartile system which resulted in actual pay increases being somewhat constrained by where the employee salary was on the classification scale. Despite this, on average, non-unit merit increases have kept pace with those increases in the DPW and police contracts. In May, the Personnel Board and Personnel Review Board unanimously voted to recommend that the Selectboard not continue with the quartile system. During the spring, town officials spent considerable time identifying those positions that if established, could be included in a

bargaining unit. The final result will not be determined until the fall of 2007. Under the Town's Personnel Bylaws, there is already an Employee Advisory Committee that has met with the Personnel Board to hear employee concerns. In recent years the Town has made a concerted effort to insure non-unit personnel receive merit increases at the annual town meeting. Years ago, these increases were not received until a fall town meeting. Further, the Town created a Sick Leave Bank, engaged an Employee Assistance Program, and implemented a business casual policy on Fridays. The FY 08 budget also included increases in longevity pay, which both unions had received in their recent contracts.

In March, the Selectboard announced that it had renewed the contract of the Town Administrator, Patricia Vinchesi, through June of 2010. The Town is fortunate to have such an experienced administrator in its employ and we are glad she will remain with us for another three-year term.

Land-Use

In the fall of 2006, the Town Administrator formed a Development Review Team to bring all town officials involved in reviewing permitting and building in the Town to meet once month to discuss projects. The DRT has been extremely successful in improving communications among departments, including both Districts and South Hadley Electric Light.

A School Building Needs Committee was appointed in the fall and will hopefully build upon and bring to fruition the work of the 2005 Elementary School Facilities Study Committee. Related to this, the Town was presented in March with the option of purchasing the Toth land, located on Newton Street, under the Commonwealth Chapter 61A program. The Selectboard voted to exercise its right to purchase this 22-acre property for future school purposes and an early fall town meeting will be held.

The FY 08 budget contained an appropriation for completing the amount of funds needed to construct a new splash pad at Beachgrounds. A new splash pad had been long-planned by the Recreation Commission and a volunteer committee and is much overdue. Coupled with these funds, the Selectboard voted in June to submit an application for \$500,000 in funding under the Commonwealth's Urban Self-Help Program for additional improvements in the parks including new fencing and lighting, improved field conditions and a concessionaire.

In the spring of 2007 a new driving range was constructed at Ledges Golf Club for a cost of about \$21,000. Our thanks are extended to John Broderick of the Department of Public Works for all his volunteer efforts in insuring the golf range was completed as early as possible in the golf season.

The May Annual Town Meeting approved a ballot question for the April 2008 election that will ask the Town

to consider approval of the Community Preservation Act. This recommendation came from a study committee that researched the issue for almost a year before bringing its report to town meeting. 2008 will be the last year municipalities that adopt the CPA will be eligible for maximum state matching funds. Over 126 communities have adopted the statute. The program, which places a percentage surcharge on real estate transactions in a community, will enable the Town to address many issues in our community such as historical preservation, park improvements, land acquisitions and many others.

Other Items of Note

Town Commons

In December the Town was notified by Mass Highway that there were significant cost overruns with the construction of the Town Commons project. This project, which among other items, included redesign of traffic flow and new sidewalks, was originally projected to cost a total of \$1.9 million. Mass Highway estimated cost overruns in excess of \$550,000 that were almost exclusively as a result of design errors by the Town's contracted engineer, Berkshire Design Group. After numerous meetings with state officials and personnel for Berkshire Design, an agreement was ultimately executed by the Town and Mass Highway. This agreement calls for the Commonwealth to provide the needed funds to complete the project in 2007 and the Town will initiate suit against Berkshire Design for the design errors. Any settlement or court decision reached as a result of this action will be reimbursed to the Commonwealth. Any shortfall will be paid by the Town, most likely through Chapter 90 funds. The Selectboard extends its sincere thanks to Representative John Scibak, for his tireless efforts in negotiating the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mass Highway.

In a related matter, the Selectboard finalized discussions with Mount Holyoke College for several pedestrian crosswalks along Route 116 near the Town Commons. These sidewalks will increase safety and overall aesthetics of the area and was entirely funded by the college.

Golf Clubhouse

As has been the case the past seven years, golf course issues dominated much of the Selectboard's time in FY 07. In January, the Golf Clubhouse Committee presented three options for a clubhouse to town meeting. Option 1, with a modular clubhouse design, was the preferred and approved option for a total appropriation of \$683,000. Signature Architects of Berlin, MA designed the project. The Selectboard extends its thanks to the many hours devoted by clubhouse committee members to bring this project to town meeting.

Chemical Spill

In October the Town was faced with a serious chemical spill at the Presstek plant on New Ludlow Road. A tank of sulfuric acid had breached causing unhealthy and

potentially dangerous chemicals being exposed, or exploding in the plant. Haz Mat Response teams were on site for three days removing the chemicals and 23 communities responded to the crisis. Over 80 families were evacuated in the Town of Granby and the Selectboard declared a state of emergency. Late in the spring, DEP announced that Presstek would be fined over \$80,000 for negligence associated with the spill. The Town has still not been reimbursed its own costs in excess of \$80,000, or the responding communities' costs in excess of \$300,000. If these costs remain unpaid, the Town will most likely be initiating suit sometime in the fall.

The Selectboard extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the DPW, Police Department, Fire District 1 and Fire District 2 for their superlative efforts in addressing this emergency situation. Special thanks are given to Chief of Police David LaBrie, Fire Chief of District 2 David Keefe, Chief Judd of District 1, and Town Administrator Patricia Vinchesi for their professionalism and handling of the situation.

Economic Development

The Selectboard continues to remain committed to its goal of revitalizing the Falls area. During the past year the Town's application to become an Economic Target Area (ETA) was approved by the Executive Office of Economic Affairs. This designation will allow the Selectboard, with town meeting approval, to negotiate tax incentives for new businesses or expansions in Town. Priority consideration will be given to businesses in the Falls Area.

Last fall the Selectboard was notified that there was an interest from a developer in purchasing the 'soon-to-be-demolished' Texon building. Herb Berezin of Holyoke has a pending option to purchasing the building and convert it to retail and over -55 housing. The acquisition of the property is dependent upon purchase of two additional properties in the Falls owned by Holyoke Water and Power.

The ETA, in conjunction with the Texon redevelopment, Beachgrounds improvements and anticipated construction of the Riverside Trail along the River in 2008, all bode well for breathing a new life into the former hub of our town.

Bond Rating Increase

In April the town officials was notified that its bond rating would increase from A2 to A1. This was the third bond rating increase for the Town in less than ten years. Over \$9 million of the Town's debt was refinanced, including all of the golf course debt and portions of the Ferry Street acquisition and high school/middle school construction. With the improved interest savings from the increased bond rating, \$564,000 alone was reduced for the golf course debt. The Selectboard extends its appreciation to Clerk/Treasurer Judith Barthelette, for pursuing this opportunity, and to Town Accountant Bill Sutton and

Town Administrator Patricia Vinchesi, who along with Ms. Barthelette made the day-long presentation to Moody's Investor Services.

Ambulance Service

Another issue that consumed much of the Selectboard's time in FY 07 was addressing the decision by Fire District #1 to provide ambulance service in the community exclusive of District 2 and the Town. Fire District #1 received a separate license to performance emergency medical services after it purchased an ambulance late last year. As a result, this impacted the long-established, high quality services provided jointly by the Police Department and both District 1 and 2 for over 35 years.

After dozens of meetings and discussions, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed by all parties in June. This MOU provides a band-aid for services for the next year. During that time it is hoped that a mutually agreeable solution can be arrived at by all parties. In February, the Town engaged Municipal Resources Inc., of Meredith, New Hampshire, to undertake a financial review of various options available to the Town in the provision of both basic and advanced life support services.

The provision of emergency medical services in our community is of critical importance to the Selectboard. At the present time, residents do not pay for this service from property taxes as it is completely funded under an Enterprise Fund with monies generated from revenues provided from ambulance calls. This issue will continue to remain at the forefront in FY 08.

Landfill

Early in 2007 the Board of Health held site assignment hearings for an additional 2.9 acres of landfill space at 10 Industrial Drive. The Selectboard also appointed a Solid Waste Committee to study options available to the Town after the landfill closes. Intermittent odors continued in the area of the landfill throughout 2007. Over 90% of the odors were of an undetermined origin and could not be directly linked to the operation of our landfill. The Department of Environmental Protection continues to work closely with town officials in responding to residents' concerns about these odors.

Board Changes

In April the Selectboard bade farewell to Barbara Eckman who served as a member for three terms, including three years as chair. Barbara's devotion to the community, and her fairness and integrity in all her dealings with staff and others will be missed. In April, the Board welcomed new member Daniel Champagne. Dr. Champagne resigned within 10 days and the Town held a special election on June 25. Gregory Sheehan, who had run in the April election, was elected at the special election. Greg will bring the financial acumen the Board had with Barbara's banking experience to the Board and has in his short time has already made a valuable contribution.

Despite many complicated and technical issues the past year, the business of the Town still managed to be accomplished. That is because we have dedicated and talented department heads and staff, and board and committee members that take their charges seriously, as well as a valued Town Administrator who somehow manages to keep it all moving.

Our thanks to fellow board members Carlene Hamlin, Richard Constant and John Hine for their commitment and efforts in FY 07.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara L. Eckman, Chair
April 2006-March 2007

Marilyn G. Ishler, Chair
April 2007-June 2007

Police Department

The Police Department continues to train and prepare for incidents that may require a multi-jurisdictional response. All members of the Department have received National Incident Management (NIMS) training necessary for the Town to meet compliance requirements of the Homeland Security Presidential Directive. Officers have been equipped with personal air respirators provided by MEMA. All officers participated in a school intruder/active shooter training program conducted by the Massachusetts State Police Tactical Operations Unit at South Hadley High School. Officer Kristin Leary achieved instructor certification from the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council in Defensive Tactics, Expandable Hand Baton and chemical spray use. Her training prompted a complete revision of the Department's "Use of Force" policy, and a departmental training for all officers in defensive tactics and the use of force. Grant funds were used to equip officers with replacement bullet proof vests and the first time issuance of expandable batons and chemical spray. This established uniformity in department officers' equipment.

The Department has entered into a multi-agency information sharing agreement with other Hampshire County Departments, for laptop inter-agency access to stored information. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Police Department, South Hadley Public Schools and the Northwestern District Attorney's Office allows for a sharing of information for a coordinated response to violent, delinquent, or criminal acts by students, including weapons reporting and alcohol and drug use.

Personnel achievements include Sergeant Steve Parentela's promotion to Lieutenant and the addition of Officer Matthew Richard and Officer Raymond Faginski to the patrol force after their successful completion of the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Academy in December. Their addition allowed for the transfer of Officer Mark Dominick to the Detective Bureau, providing

immediate investigative response at an additional forty hours per week.

Interacting with, and providing additional service to, the community continues to be a high priority for this Department. Officers continue to provide support and services for TRIAD, firearms licensing, car seat installations, sex offender information dissemination, Toys for Tots, Drug and Alcohol Task Force, and numerous youth-focused activities. The Citizens Police Academy and the Police Beat are new additions to the department's initiatives. Officer Mark Sowell developed a curriculum for an eight-week Citizen's Police Academy which not only provides insight into the requirements and responsibilities of law enforcement officers but also provides an opportunity for residents and officers to find common ground to address problems within the community. Officer Michael Pollender established the Police Beat, a weekly reporting of departmental activities to the Town Reminder.

On behalf of the department I extend thanks to the volunteer Special Police led by Robert Whelihan Sr. Not only did they provide welcome assistance at the July Fireworks and Memorial Day Parade, but their weekly cruiser patrols insure Town property is secure and protected. Sincere thanks to the residents, town officials, and town employees who have given their support and assistance the Department and I throughout the year.

Activity Report

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Calls Received	19,668	22,564	25,478
Arrests (Total)	353	352	332
Arrests (OUI)	82	73	46
Motor Vehicle Crashes	318	347	305
Motor Vehicle Violations	1,730	2,023	1,552
Motor Vehicle Theft	27	17	22
Incident Reports	913	1,025	1,003
Disturbance Reports	341	374	344
Domestic Violence	77	71	43
Fraud	7	27	57
Larcenies	192	229	240
B & E Dwelling	37	48	92

Respectfully submitted,

David J. LaBrie
Chief of Police

Ambulance Service

I submit herewith the report of the Ambulance Department from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The ambulance answered a total of 1,665 calls:

<u>2006</u>		<u>2007</u>	
July	136	January	122
August	130	February	144
September	136	March	151
October	136	April	123
November	138	May	161
December	<u>153</u>	June	<u>135</u>
TOTAL	829	TOTAL	836

The ALS (Advanced Life Support) Committee has been meeting throughout the year. The committee consists of Chief of Police David LaBrie, Fire District #1 Chief William Judd, Fire District #2 Chief David Keefe and myself, as Ambulance Director. I'd like to thank the committee members for their many hours of support during these meetings working together to provide an MOU, (Memorandum of Understanding) for the Town of South Hadley, Fire District #1, District #2, the Prudential Committee of Fire District #1 and the Prudential Committee of Fire District #2. This MOU allows District #1 to operate its Medic One ambulance while still providing BLS, (Basic Life Support) to the Town through the Town's ambulances, with Police, District #1 and District #2 personnel.

My thanks are also extended to Mount Holyoke College for its generous gift towards the purchase of the new ambulance.

Thanks also to AMR and Pathways ALS ambulance services along with the Town of Granby, as our backup and intercept ALS service. We thank all of them for their cooperation and excellent services.

Finally, I am also grateful to Chief LaBrie, Fire Chief Judd, Fire Chief Keefe, Firefighter Kurt Schenker and all the EMT's, Intermediates and Paramedics who operate and maintain the ambulance for their cooperation and assistance during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. McKenna
Director of Ambulance Service

Emergency Management Agency

A 1,500 gallon sulfuric acid spill at the Presstek lithographing facility on New Ludlow Road resulted in a "State of Emergency" declaration by the Selectboard on October 31, 2006. The spill sent vapor clouds towards neighborhoods in Granby and South Hadley, prompting the third-largest hazardous materials response in the Commonwealth's history. Some 1,200 people, representing numerous state agencies and local police and fire departments from 35 responding communities took part in the response; evacuating 80 households, and closing local businesses for the better part of three days. Haz mat

personnel stabilized the chemical, preventing catastrophic damage, and removed other chemicals from damaged holding tanks.

Working under a unified command, first responders from various disciplines and numerous agencies used National Incident Management System training to insure a coordinated response. First responders and administrators (police, fire, health care, public works, and governmental) have completed the initial phase of training mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive #5. Mid-level supervisors are in the process of completing the second phase of require training in the Incident Command System (ICS).

The Town and Districts have subscribed to a community telephone notification system with Connect CTY. The service allows officials to send personalized telephone messages to thousands of residents in minutes. Though its primary purpose is for emergency notification, Town and District officials have set up smaller contact groups for special interest notifications.

Town officials continue to prepare for the possible distribution of medication in response to pandemic or chemical agents. Department leaders working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission have formulated a Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, identifying and mapping critical infrastructure, vulnerable populations, current and future mitigation strategies.

Respectfully submitted,

David LaBrie
Emergency Management Director

Tree Warden

2007 has been a busy year with numerous calls. Through a contract with Northern Tree, we have removed many dead or hazardous trees as well as dead wood removal and raising up tree limbs over the road. Assistance has also been provided to the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission. I have also provided support to the Planning Board on various developments including ongoing work with the Mountainbrook Subdivision. I would like to thank Linda Young, George Hahn, John Broderick, Richard Harris, Lisa Napiorkowski, Richard Hunter, Patricia Vinchesi, the Selectboard, and the Northern Tree crew for their assistance.

I am still in the process of pursuing the title of Tree City. In the near future, I will be searching for members to help form a proposed Shade Tree Committee to assist in planning and providing input into the care of South Hadley's shade trees. A major part will be the completion of a Shade Tree Bylaw and Shade Tree Management Plan.

I am reviewing plans from other cities and towns across the United States and am also in the process of drafting the Shade Tree Bylaws.

We have fulfilled a step by providing an Arbor Day program at the Michael Smith Middle School arboretum. I was assisted in program planning by George Hahn and Linda Young. A Japanese cherry tree was planted in honor of the Tri-Town Garden Club.

I apologize to the citizens of South Hadley for delays in answering all calls. I hope they understand that like most community Tree Wardens, I am only part-time. My full time position is teaching Landscaping at a vocational/technical high school. As with all teachers in Massachusetts, I spend much of my time in lesson planning as well as aligning our curriculum with the Massachusetts Educational Frameworks.

I can be contacted by calling the DPW office or by email: Southhadleytree@aol.com.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Lamontagne
Tree Warden

Forestry Committee

Our only real estate responsibility now is the Judd Forest Reservation. The committee has had two meetings in fiscal 2007. The Reservation is in good condition except for the perennial problem of minor amounts of broken glass in the camping area. The two trails have been named: Judd Trail and Bare Mountain Trail.

Two signs were installed last year: "Parking for Trails" at the circle by Old Amherst Road and "To Trails and Judd Reservation" on Old Amherst Road. The latter is missing. All bounds are visible and in good condition. The Salamander Study has been dormant this year due to lack of funding but will probably continue next year. UMass would like to continue it for a few more years. The Committee sent a letter to the Selectboard concerning the problem of invasive exotic plants on public land throughout the town.

Boy Scouts have used the facility a few times. At this time the main needs are better mapping for the Reservation, improved trail markings, and continued policing to keep ATVs off the property and to stop breaking of bottles.

Respectfully submitted,

David Rundle, Chair

Animal Control Department

My report of the Animal Control Department from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007 is as follows:

Calls Received	892
Dogs Found Unrestrained	89
Dogs Returned/Claimed	74
Dogs Adopted	11
Dogs Hit By Cars	1
Dogs Euthanized	3
Cat Complaints	106
Other Small Animals Complaints	175

Animal Control Officers are on call 24/7 for animal problems or questions. I wish to thank the following for their help and assistance.

Members of the Police Department
South Hadley Veterinary Clinic Staff
Memorial Drive Animal Clinic – Dr. Cutting
Homeless Cat Project – Linda Gaunt
Poundkeeper – Anne Jagodowski

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Dufault
Animal Control Officer

Robert Whelihan
Assistant Animal Control
Officer

Sealer of Weights and Measures

The Weights and Measures Department inspected, tested, adjusted, sealed 106 fuel dispensing devices and 63 scales in FY07. The scales at all the schools and in the Nurse's Office at the Council on Aging were tested. Thank you to all concerned for their support and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Kelleher
Sealer of Weights and Measures

Historical Commission

The Historical Commission was pleased to learn this year that the Texon building below the dam is slated to be re-developed, rather than demolished. This important building is one of the last standing that reflects South Hadley's manufacturing roots. The Canal and Gatehouse Parks are still in the planning stages, and member Ted Belsky continues to be our contact with Holyoke Gas & Electric on the matter.

Town meeting voted to support our application for a planning and survey grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, which will allow the South Hadley Historical Commission to hire a professional to inventory the historic properties and assets of the Town. This information can be used in the formulation of a demolition-delay bylaw and the possible creation of historic districts. We have advertised for bids from professionals, and the process is ongoing, spearheaded by Bob Judge.

The Commission has endorsed the passage of the Community Preservation Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Larrow, Co-Chair
Josephine Wojnarowski, Co-Chair
Ted Belsky

Wayne Boulais
David Daly
Robert Judge

Old Firehouse Museum

The Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum submit their 31st annual report for 2006/2007.

The Old Firehouse Museum, located at Four North Main Street, South Hadley, is open from May through September on Sundays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and also Wednesdays during July and August.

In addition to standard visiting hours, the Museum had excellent attendance at the Canal Village Potpourri in April, and was visited by special groups such as Mount Holyoke Second Saturday student volunteers.

The Firehouse Museum's 2006 exhibit "Mountain Houses – A Bygone Era" was about the mountain or summit houses on Mt. Holyoke, Mt. Tom and Mt. Nonotuck. The exhibit was comprised primarily of the largest known collection of summit house photos, artifacts, and memorabilia, on loan to us by Society member Mark Larrow.

The 2007 exhibit "Canal Village 1792-1862" draws from the Historical Society's own collection.

The Firehouse Museum entry and staircase has recently been repainted with labor donated by the inmates of the Hampshire County Correctional Facility.

The Trustees, with help from Representative John Scibak, obtained funding from a Massachusetts Travel and Tourism grant for \$50,000 for building improvements.

The monies from the grant will be used for installation of new lower bay doors, a monitored fire/smoke/CO2 alarm system, a dehumidification system for the downstairs Engine Room, painting of the floor, and roofing for the Children's Museum.

The Trustees appreciate the support from the Town of South Hadley in keeping the Old Firehouse Museum a valuable town asset. We extend our thanks to the South Hadley Historical Society, South Hadley Historic Commission, Canal Park Committee, volunteers and the many friends who make it possible to keep our museum open and free to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Moos, Chair
Josephine Wojnarowski, Clerk
Wayne Gass
Brenda Griffin
Todd Calkins

Bonnie Randall
Richard Stefanowicz
Robert Blaney
Gerard Lacasse

Cultural Council

The South Hadley Cultural Council submits the following report for FY2007. Requests amounted to \$10,331.00 for an allocation of only \$7,270.00. Fourteen applications were fully or partially funded as follows:

- Black Cat Theater - \$500.00
- Gaylord Memorial Library - \$150.00
- Mosier School - \$200.00, \$200.00, \$618.00, \$683.00, and \$679.00
- Michael Myers - \$175.00
- Pioneer Valley Concert Band - \$500.00
- South Hadley Chorale - \$1,000.00 and \$600.00
- South Hadley High School - \$1,500.00
- South Hadley Historical Society - \$300.00
- South Hadley Public Library - \$165.00

This was the fourth year of drastic reductions in our allocation. Once again, the Council waived the administrative funds in order to provide more grants. We shall continue to advocate for increased state funding to provide the community with a variety of cultural activities and events.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Clancy, Chair
Carlotta Michel, Vice Chair
Kathleen Holt, Secretary
Sue Rusiecki, Treasurer

Michael Davis
Ruth Kosiorek
Victoria Wildman

DPW Administration

The South Hadley Department of Public Works is responsible for the following:

- Approximately 95 Miles of Road (Plowing, sanding, sweeping, line painting, patching, signage)
- About 20 Miles of Drainage Pipe (Cleaning catch basins, clearing blockages, repairing structures)

- About 70 Miles of Sewer Main (Responding to back-ups, root control, flushing, main repairs)
- A 4.2 million gallon per day wastewater treatment plant and five pump stations
- A 26-acre Landfill (Contractor operated), Compost Area, and Recycling Center
- 11 Parks and various other town-owned property (mowing, snow removal, etc.)
- 30 DPW vehicles, seven trailers, and various equipment (repairs, maintenance)
- Town Tree Maintenance Under the Direction of the Tree Warden

Besides normal maintenance, the DPW is also managing several capital projects:

Town Commons Project. After a delay, Caracas Construction has returned to finish the Town Common Project. The remaining work includes the installation of sidewalks, curbing, and handrails, loaming and seeding, and the placement of the top course of asphalt. Project completion is expected in November of 2007.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. We are in the midst of a major upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant and two of our pump stations. The work includes the installation of a new 4.2 million gallon per day pump, channel grinders, and controls at the Main Street Pump Station. New pumps, a generator, and a new wet well will be installed at the Stony Brook Pump Station. Upgrades at the Wastewater Treatment Plant include the installation of new aerators, grit blowers, and plunger pumps. Repairs to the plant's outfall, chlorine contact chamber, garage roof, and sludge thickening tanks are also within the scope of the project. Finally, a new SCADA system will be installed to allow remote monitoring of plant equipment. The contractor, Interstate Engineering, is about halfway complete with the project. Full completion is scheduled for March of 2008.

Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Flow Diversion Project. New sewer mains are being installed in two areas of Town to increase sewage collection system capacity. Jack Goncalves & Sons just started this project. About 3,400 feet of 12-inch sewer main will be installed at Laurie Avenue and Abbey Street. Approximately 2,000 feet of 18-inch sewer main will be installed at Bardwell Street from Main Street to Gaylord Street, northeast along Gaylord Street to Prospect Street, and then north along Prospect Street to Walnut Street. Also included in the scope of the project is the abandonment of the remaining two Combined Sewer Overflows. Project completion is scheduled for December of 2007.

I became South Hadley's DPW Superintendent on February 26, 2007. Over the last four months, I have gotten to know the employees of the DPW and I must say I am impressed. They are dedicated, talented, and I am very

confident in their abilities. The Town is lucky to have these individuals working at the DPW.

I would like to welcome two employees who were recently approved to work at the DPW: Veronique Blanchard became the Town's Solid Waste Coordinator on June 27, 2007. She replaced Jane Southworth, who retired after six years with the Town. I wish Jane the very best. I also would like to welcome John Gates, who recently filled the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator.

Finally, I would like to thank the Selectboard, Town Administrator, and everyone at Town Hall for making me feel welcome from the very start. Also, I would like to thank everyone at the DPW (especially John Broderick, Yem Lip, Joyce Lynes, and Kathy Cote) for their help with my transition into this new position.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reidy
DPW Superintendent

Engineering

The Engineering Division provided technical services in the following areas during the past year: sanitary engineering and storm water management, design and management of highways, roads and bridges, solid waste management, water pollution control, land use planning and environmental protection, technical support for the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Building Inspector, construction project management, surveying, construction supervision, and inspection for all public works infrastructure maintenance and construction projects.

Some of the Major Projects Addressed in FY07:

- Continued construction supervision on the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pump Stations Upgrade Project;
- Completed design/permit and began construction of Combined Sewer Overflow Diversion Project;
- Completed design/bid and constructed sewer improvement projects on Morgan Street and Mount Holyoke College sewer interceptor by-pass;
- Continued design support and input on the Ledges Clubhouse Project;
- Oversight of the sanitary landfill operations contract and planning for future solid waste management facilities;
- Continued oversight of the Town Commons Area Roadway and Streetscape Improvements Project;

- Scheduling and construction management of infrastructure and roadway improvements using Chapter 90 funds;
- Construction inspection of subdivisions and various other approved site plans;
- Site Plan and Subdivision Review: Park Street Extension, Mount Holyoke College Boathouse, College Hill Condominiums, MHC Dormitory, MHC Track/Field, to name a few.
- Worked with Town Planner on comprehensive review and modification of Subdivision Regulations.
- Continued to work with Town Administrator and Town Planner on survey and status of unaccepted streets in Town.
- Completed drainage design and various roadway improvement plans including Park Street, Alvord Street, and Silver Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reidy
DPW Superintendent

Yem Lip, P.E.
Town Engineer

Highway Division

The Highway Division oversees, maintains, and repairs the Town's road and bridge network in the interest of providing safe travel conditions for residents. In addition, any infrastructure excavation, site grading, earth moving, hauling, tree work, snow and ice maintenance and removal, sign and road markings maintenance, and vehicle maintenance is assumed under this division.

The department was able to pave and reconstruct over 20 streets this past season using Chapter 90 money. This work was coordinated with improvements to infrastructure made by Water Districts 1 and 2, and Bay State Gas Company, prior to road paving. Limited localized sidewalk and curbing improvements, including sectional patches and driveway aprons were undertaken by DPW crews, using nearly 120 tons of asphalt.

The DPW continues to use pavement management and related infrastructure management software as a basis to track roadway conditions, and prioritize repairs based on data. The Highway Division provides close monitoring of permits and inspections of road openings to minimize damage to roadways by utility and other contractors accessing Town easements and to help preserve the longevity of the roadway structure.

In addition to the contracted projects that were performed this past year, the Highway Division staff completed

numerous in-house projects and tasks. These projects include: localized drainage repairs/installations on Ludlow Road, Ashton Lane, Woodbridge Street, Mosier Street, and Mulligan Drive; Sewer system repairs on Silver Street, Mountainview Street; catch basin and manhole structure repairs/rebuilds at various locations; tree maintenance and emergency response; assistance with infrastructure maintenance and repairs associated with the Town Commons Project. The Sign Department continued the systematic Town-wide replacement of all street signs and upgrades/maintenance of all traffic and directional signs. The traffic marking crew has continued line painting of all school lot markings, playgrounds, crosswalks, stop lines, and handicapped/parking spaces, as well as main road parking markings. The DPW completed the annual town-wide sweeping program of all Town roads and parking lots in late June. Roadside mowing and brush cutting is scheduled and performed throughout the year, and is becoming more of a challenge as we realize the effects of not having a tree maintenance department on a daily basis.

All DPW vehicle maintenance and repairs are performed at the Highway Division garage. This task involves many pieces of different equipment, from lawn mowers to heavy duty bucket loaders and plow trucks. As the fleet becomes older, repairs and maintenance become more involved, especially on the vehicles used during the winter season.

The Highway division is also involved with the following projects: firework set-up and clean-up, voting booth set-up/take down, special event assistance with traffic control, gravel road maintenance, building repairs, and furniture/equipment moving.

The recent winter season was much milder than past winters, but the department still responded to 13 snow/ice events to provide safe, clear roadways. This task will become a bit more complex in the future with the maintenance responsibilities associated within the scope of the Town Commons Project and associated sidewalks.

The Highway Department would like to thank the South Hadley Electric Light Department, Water Districts #1 & #2, Fire Districts #1 & #2, the South Hadley Housing Authority and the South Hadley Police Department for their cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reidy
DPW Superintendent

John Broderick
Highway Superintendent

Solid Waste Division

The Solid Waste Division of the Town of South Hadley DPW has three key areas of responsibility: oversight of curbside collection and disposal of both trash and recyclables for the Town; oversight of the Town-owned landfill, which is managed by Northeast Waste Services;

and management of the yard waste/composting site and the recycling center. Allied Waste Services is contracted by the Town to provide curbside pickup of recyclables and trash. DPW staff manage the compost site and Recycling Center.

The Recycling Center continues to provide recycling services for materials which have been banned from the landfill, including:

- Paper – 1197 tons recycled
- Cans, bottles, and plastic containers – 382 tons recycled
- Propane tanks – 289 tons recycled
- Tires – 655 recycled
- Electronic items – 44.7 tons recycled
- Motor oil – 3,150 gallons recycled

In addition, scrap metal which has been diverted from the waste stream and subsequently recycled has brought in \$17,799.84 in income for the Town.

The Center also continues to collect books for the Book Swap, usable goods for the Swap Table, and fluorescent bulbs and mercury bearing products for recycling. Seasonal programs include paint collection and mattress disposal, household hazardous waste collection days, leaf collection, and Christmas tree recycling. James Richter and Robert Klekotka are Gate Attendants for the center.

The yard waste compost site has been very popular, with residents bringing in leaves, grass, and brush which is in turn ground and then composted by Jack Schmitter. Last year's collection produced approximately 10,000 cubic yards of compost which is available outside the DPW fence for residents to use in their own yards.

A new program "SHARPS" instituted this year is the collection of used needles. This program helps protect workers from accidental puncture when collecting refuse and is made possible by a grant from Allied Waste and the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility. The SHARPS are taken to a licensed medical incinerator for disposal. In addition, there was a special collection during the household hazardous waste day for unused medicines.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reidy
DPW Superintendent

Veronique Blanchard
Solid Waste Coordinator

Sewer Division

The Sewer Division's maintenance program consists of annually cleaning about 100 miles of sewers and drain lines, periodically inspecting existing sewer lines, easements, and new sewers under construction, and annually cleaning hundreds of catch basins. The Water

Pollution Control—Sewer Division's primary concern is public health and safety. The Division provides 24-hour emergency service to residents to respond to calls received after normal work hours. The Division continues to monitor weekly, and after heavy rains, two combined sewer overflows (CSO's), still permitted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in our collection system. The DPW is currently in the construction phase of eliminating these two CSO's to comply with EPA and DEP mandated guidelines.

The preventive maintenance that the Sewer Division practices provides effective operation of the sewer system. Known trouble areas are given special attention by providing chemical or machine maintenance to help alleviate issues. Private contractors are hired periodically to perform root control and television services to help locate, assess, and alleviate problems within the infrastructure. The Sewer Division is outfitted with TV inspection equipment to perform in-house work. The equipment used for maintenance includes a Vactor-mounted Flusher truck that is capable of performing catch basin cleaning, high-pressure water cleaning and cutting of underground sewer and drainage lines, and has chemical and degreasing capabilities.

During the last year, the crew accomplished the following: cleaned all catch basins located at the bottom of hills, high traffic areas, and known trouble spots; weekly inspection of combined sewer overflows; quarterly maintenance flushing/cutting of historic trouble spots; degreased sewer lines downstream of restaurants; chemical treatment for tree root intrusion, vapor rooting, and off-road easement inspections and maintenance.

Stormwater management programs this past year included the set-up of regularly scheduled cleaning of catch basin structures and flushing of the drainage system piping throughout Town. In addition to the street sweeping program and catch basin cleaning, improved public education, system mapping, and development of specific policies and procedures occurred and is on-going. These efforts should be finalized in the next year and will meet the goals and objectives outlined in the notice of intent filed by the Town to EPA.

The EPA policy on storm water management is intended to maximize the capacity of the storm water system and to provide improved water quality discharge. Good storm water management, through maintenance of drainage systems, ultimately provides for improved water quality in our brooks and streams.

The DPW continues to work with our consulting engineer firms on various project designs and program requirements as outlined in the long-term Wastewater Management Plan completed in 2002. This information is essential to assist the crew on system maintenance and repairs.

The Sewer Division would like to thank the many staff, officials, and residents for continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reidy
DPW Superintendent

John Broderick
Highway Superintendent

Parks/Playground Division

The Parks Division, based primarily in the big white barn next to the High School fields at 28 Lincoln Street, provides mowing, landscaping, grounds keeping, athletic field marking, and management of a variety of the Town's properties. Properties under Parks Division jurisdiction include parkland, woodland, athletic fields, playgrounds, schools, public works facilities, and Town-owned public buildings. These include: Town Hall, Police Station, Beachgrounds Park, the Town Commons, Old Fire House Museum (including Fred Smith Park), Canal Park, Plains School, High School, Mosier School, Michael E. Smith Middle School, Ferry Field, Emerson Park, Marion Street Park, North Street Park, Lecca Park, the South Hadley Library, and the Senior Center. The Parks Division also manages Buttery Brook Park. Buttery Brook Park amenities include two picnic pavilions, picnic tables, a zoo, bandstand, basketball facilities, tennis courts, and playground facilities.

Buttery Brook Park continued to have many great activities and events this past year. The Friday night Cruise Nights are very popular and the Bluegrass Festival returned with great success. Big Rig day once again was a wonderful day for all the children and adults attending. The Black Cat Children's Theatre performed throughout the month of July and August with wonderful reviews. The Sunday night concert series was another summer success for the park that brought in various artists of most musical tastes. The Friends of Buttery Brook Park have done an outstanding job working with these groups and organizing each event. Their efforts and hard work make these events and attractions available to Town residents. They are also working with the Recreation Department on future activities and attractions for the Park including new tennis courts and a spray park.

The Parks Division continues aggressive turf management operations and maintenance of Town fields. The five step fertilizer program along with more frequent and timely aerating, overseeding, and watering of the fields has proven to be very productive in providing better playing areas for the Town's sports programs. The division utilizes an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM) to comply with legislation affecting the application of pesticides on school athletic facilities and grounds. We have worked with town officials and school administrators on the IPM plan. The IPM plan is mandated by the Commonwealth to minimize environmental impacts and

risk to adults and children at play on the fields and in schools.

The Division installed new sod on the Beachgrounds #2 infield in the fall of 2006 with the assistance of the Highway Division and volunteers. Volunteers installed an irrigation system on the infield. New, high quality infield mix was incorporated into four fields during the fall by the Parks Division at both High School fields and Beachgrounds #2 and #3. This provided better playing surfaces on the dirt portions of the fields.

Approximately 900 children came to see Mr. and Mrs. Claus at Buttery Brook Park last December, bringing with them some 2,000 adults. We received many donations from residents that visited Santa this past year at Santa Land. On behalf of Santa, we would like to thank these donors for their generosity.

We wish to thank the staff, the many athletic groups, town officials, and residents for their efforts and support over the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reidy
DPW Superintendent

William J Simard
Parks Supervisor

Water Pollution Control Division

The Water Pollution Control facility, located on James Street in Chicopee, is an activated sludge secondary wastewater treatment plant designed to treat 4.2 million gallons of wastewater per day. The original plant, built in 1959/1960, was a primary treatment facility only. The plant was upgraded to secondary treatment in 1979/1980, with sludge dewatering improvements made in 1991. The treatment works also consists of five pumping stations strategically located around Town, which assist in transferring the sewage to the treatment plant. The plant also serves small portions of the City of Chicopee and the Town of Granby.

Last year, the plant treated an average of 2.57 million gallons of wastewater per day and processed 592 tons of sludge. The recent acquisition of two dumpsters and a roll-off truck now allow plant personnel to transport the sludge to the South Hadley Landfill for disposal. The truck is also used at the landfill for moving dumpsters and transporting recyclables, eliminating the need to have this trucked by an outside company.

In September of 2006, there was a staffing reorganization within this Department, affecting personnel and job responsibilities. The Supervisor position has now been split into two positions. The Operations Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the treatment plant and the five pumping stations. The Compliance Manager is responsible for the administrative

and compliance reporting aspects of the plant, as well as overseeing the Industrial Pretreatment and CSO Programs.

There was one significant operational issue that occurred in April, during a period of high precipitation over the course of a couple weeks resulting in high plant flows. An equipment malfunction resulted in a flow obstruction and caused the flow to back up to the headworks of the treatment plant. The situation was corrected in a few hours and reported to the DEP and the federal EPA.

The WPC Facility is currently in the midst of a \$6 million upgrade to the treatment plant and two of the pumping stations. As part of the upgrade, obsolete equipment and piping dating back to the original construction is being removed. Key equipment in each process phase that is outdated and/or in need of repair is being replaced or refurbished. A state-of-the-art interactive monitoring system (SCADA) for the plant and stations is also being installed. Major upgrades, including additional pump capacity, are being implemented at the Main Street Pump Station. This, in conjunction with a flow diversion project already underway, will eliminate two of the three remaining CSO's. The Stonybrook Pump Station is being completely overhauled, and capacity increased. Once complete, the final CSO in the Town of South Hadley will be eliminated. By contract, the entire project will be completed by March 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Reidy
DPW Superintendent

Melissa Labonte
Compliance Manager

Mike Cijka
Operations Manager

Personnel Board

In Fiscal Year 2007, the Personnel Board continued to work with the Selectboard, Town Administrator, Personnel Officer and department heads to assure that the evaluation process for the Pay for Performance system was continuing to improve. It is very much improved and department heads are doing a good job in their evaluations. It has been a learning process for all and the Board appreciates everyone's cooperation.

Three members of the Personnel Board also serve on the Personnel Review Board in handling any evaluations the Personnel Officer feels they should review. They also assist with the monies allocated to each employee for Pay for Performance.

The Board voted to reclassify five positions in FY07. The Board also worked with the Personnel Officer to implement new policies, such as Cell Phone Usage for both personal cell phones and Town-issued cell phones. Also the Board clarified the dress code policy for Town employees.

In an effort to establish and maintain ongoing dialogue with employees, the Personnel Board met with the Employee Advisory Committee. The EAC is comprised of four individuals representing non-union employees of the Town. Members were encouraged to attend any Personnel Board meetings and bring to the Board any concerns or criticisms for the Board to address from employees. Those representing the employees were Margaret Clancy, Ann Guenette, Lynn Roberts and Joe Wholley. They attended several meetings with the Board.

Fiscal Year 2007 on a personal level was an extremely difficult year for the Personnel Board because it lost two valued members. Michael Herrick passed away in April and will be sadly missed by the Personnel Board after his many years as a member and alternate member of the Personnel Board. David Gendron, former Chair of the Board, resigned from the Board early in the year for personal reasons. Dave had been a member since 2002. He worked closely with Bob Judge on the Pay for Performance system. Bob resigned in 2006. Newly-appointed alternate to the Board, Mike Dowd, also resigned. However, the Board was very fortunate to welcome Ann Eaton and Kris Gagne as new members. Each come to the Board with many years of human resource experience and are an asset to the Board's work.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Auclair Chair
Alison O'Donald, Vice-Chair

Ann Eaton
Kris Gagne

Council on Aging

During Fiscal Year 2007 we provided over 80,000 units of service to over 3,400 individuals. Over 10,000 telephone calls were logged throughout the year. The staff and volunteers of the South Hadley Council on Aging continue to provide efficient, helpful and knowledgeable service to the residents. With the growing senior population, the number of individuals who were assisted in some manner increased by another five percent from the previous year.

Each year an annual report must be submitted to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The following statistics show how many units of service in various categories the COA provided in the past fiscal year. The Nutrition Program continues to be a vital part of the Senior Center which includes:

Home Delivered Meals

20,904 units of service for 175 individuals

Congregate Meals

12,067 units of service for 725 individuals as compared with 11,397 units of service for 661 last year

Transportation

5,450 units of service were provided for 173 individuals

Health Equipment Loan for all residents

247 units of service for 121 individuals as compared with 216 units last year

Notary for all residents

44 units of service

AARP Free Tax Assistance

152 units of service as compared with 135 units in FY06

Fitness and Exercise

2,000 units of service, similar to last year's numbers

Community Education

Senior Net provided 1,259 units of computer education in addition to 200 units of service for safety, and health and wellness programs. There were almost 9,000 units of recreational services. In the spring, 12 participants took advantage of an AARP Safe Driving Class. Almost 300 consumers received 539 units of health screening service.

OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE:

Fuel Assistance

207 households (9 new furnaces partially subsidized)

Salvation Army Good Neighbor Fuel Assistance

17 applicants received \$4,675

Joe for Oil

31 referrals

Electric Company "Lights On" credits

96 families received assistance, 6 families under 60

Prescription Advantage

61 individuals were served compared to 47 last year

Referrals to other agencies, etc.

312

Christmas Baskets

91 households received a holiday bundle

Almost 900 Brown Bags were distributed as well as 50 Farmers' Market coupons. Over 300 bags of groceries were shared with six "Adopted Seniors." Volunteers called almost 2,700 senior residents to wish them a "Happy Birthday." Approximately 40 individuals took part in over 100 support group sessions. Six new groups of seniors have come to tour our Center since the beginning of 2007.

Recycling abounds at the Senior Center where approximately 1,200 items of clothing were donated and about 1,030 free items left with "satisfied customers." Through the efforts of three volunteers who donated over 100 hours, the clothing was hung neatly on a rack. Any remaining items were delivered to Good Will. There is a "free table" for people to bring in unwanted items that are

in good condition for some else to use. The Senior Center accepts books and puzzles, room permitting; as well as health equipment that is in excellent condition, again if storage room is available.

We had 14 knitters present 390 hats, mittens and scarves to 378 children at the Plains School. A group of 16 enthusiastic knitters made 70 "preemies" blankets, 284 hats and 10 pairs of booties for the Bay State Neo-Natal Center. In addition, the quilting class made three single-bed quilts for the Salvation Army "Wrapped in Love" project.

With the assistance of South Hadley TRIAD, free cell phones were distributed to dozens of seniors for "emergency 9-1-1 assistance." In addition, over 100 house numbers were placed at homes courtesy of TRIAD volunteers.

At the 90+ Birthday celebration Alma Tetrault and Wilfred Cote shared the spotlight.

It was sad to hear the news that Michael Herrick had passed away. Mike was the Chair of the COA Board for six years. He was very dedicated to the COA. More sad news came with the news of Margaret McDonnell's passing. Margaret was instrumental in making the Council on Aging the special place that it has become. Margaret or "Maggie Mac" as she like to be called, was a lady ahead of her time and remained strong and committed in her endeavor to get funding for the seniors. She purchased the first COA vehicle, spear-headed the formation of the South Hadley Friends of the Elderly, Inc. and developed the Senior Center from her kitchen table. She has remembered the Council on Aging with a bequest, which is greatly appreciated.

On another sad note, news arrived from Florida that Kathryn Eschenberg, former Chair of the COA Board, passed away. Kay served as a member of the WestMass ElderCare, Inc. Advisory Council and was the liaison to the Council on Aging membership.

In September a new staff member, Sister Judith Rosenthal, was hired as a 15-hour per week Senior Clerk. This is a new position which has proven to be extremely helpful to the rest of the staff and is much appreciated.

In October Elinor S. White, Social Services Coordinator, marked 20 years at the COA. In February, Elinor was recognized by the South Hadley Lions Club and received The Irish Knights Citizenship Award for outstanding service to seniors.

Also in October at the Retired Senior Volunteer Program Annual Recognition Lunch, South Hadley was recognized as having the most volunteers. Faithful volunteers are the backbone of all of the programs and activities at the Senior Center. During the past year, approximately 200 active

volunteers gave over 20,000 hours of their time to assist the staff. Since the start of the new year, ten new volunteers have come to join the COA network and we welcome them.

A Mental Health Forum was held at the South Hadley Senior Center and was organized by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs as well as the State Commission on Mental Health. Over 100 participants attended and there was a great exchange of ideas concerning the various aspects of providing services in an efficient manner for consumers.

Welcome packs are being mailed each month to residents turning 60. Included in the packet is a variety of information about the various programs and activities at the Senior Center.

In December, Brooks Holmes, Music Teacher at the Michael E. Smith Middle School, met with Deb Thumith, COA Activity Coordinator, and together they implemented the most wonderful intergenerational program whereby band students come to the Senior Center and perform for 30-45 minutes before lunch and then join the seniors for a meal. This has been enjoyable for both age groups.

Through memorial donations, 16 card tables and 48 cushioned chairs were purchased for the Card Room at the Senior Center. They replaced furniture that was up to 25 years old.

In July, the Senior Aide Program went through some transition as the sponsor agency changed from WestMass ElderCare, Inc. to Citizens for Citizens out of Fall River, Massachusetts. However, this change allowed Dorothy Plant to remain one more year in our department. In June, Dorothy left after being at the COA for three years. We wish her well.

On May 30th National Senior Health & Fitness Day was celebrated with cooperative efforts from various departments. Special thanks to the South Hadley Board of Health and Fire District #1 for providing blood pressure and blood glucose screening. In cooperation with TRIAD, an evening program was held and Registrar David Sullivan gave a presentation on Life Estate planning focusing on Power of Attorney. A student came to tape the program which is now playing on Channel 15.

Marilyn Ishler and Deb Thumith coordinated a Soldiers Project for volunteers to make head and neck coolers for the soldiers in Iraq.

After serving for six years on the Board, Dr. Carol Craig was required to step down from her position. Ellen Cohen-Mehlhorn also decided to step down after three years. Special thanks to both of these dedicated individuals.

Through the support of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and WestMass ElderCare, the Council on Aging received generous grant funding to provide services. The grants are as follows: State Formula Grant-\$23,241 and WestMass ElderCare various grants-\$103,102. All of the donations placed in the Nutrition Program box at the luncheons as well as the donations received from the home delivered meals clients are given to WestMass Elder Care, Inc. For FY' 07 donations were slightly over \$55,000.

The South Hadley Council on Aging hopes to continue to serve the South Hadley elders in the best manner possible. The Council on Aging Board, the staff and the Director thank the businesses and members of the Community for their faithful support.

COA STAFF:

Joanne K. Trybus, Director
Ann M. Guenette, Assistant Director
Elinor S. White, Social Service Coordinator
Deb Thumith, Activity/Volunteer Coordinator
Sister Judith Rosenthal, Senior Clerk
Billy Poe, Food Service Coordinator
Wayne Walton, Assistant Cook
Liz Methot, Hot Meals on Wheels Coordinator
Nancy Blodgett, Hot Meals on Wheels Driver
Debra Mehlhorn, Hot Meals on Wheels Driver
George Perreault, Hot Meals on Wheels Driver
Bob Methot, Custodian
Richard Carrignan, Minibus Driver
Fran Wagner, Minibus Driver
Dam Gladu, Minibus Driver
Dorothy Plant, WestMass ElderCare sponsored Senior Aide

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Guilbault, Chair	Dr. Francis Nelen
Ellen Cohen-Mehlhorn, Vice Chair	Melide Normand
Shirley Martin, Secretary	Gregory Sheehan
Sara Bach	Judith Strzempko
Carol Craig	Eileen Tonelli
Susan Myers	

Housing Authority

Incorporated on June 5, 1958, the South Hadley Housing Authority is recognized by the Town of South Hadley and the Commonwealth's authority regulating the Department of Housing and Community Development as the agency responsible for the administration of state-aided public housing in the Town of South Hadley, Massachusetts.

The Housing Authority's senior housing apartments are located on three developments. Ninety-six apartments for the elderly, the Lathrop Village Apartments, are located at 69 Lathrop Street. Newton Manor Apartment with forty apartments is our third housing development for the senior citizens' population. The Newton Manor state-aided

apartments, forty units, and are located at 643 Newton Street in South Hadley.

The Housing Authority's family apartments are located on Abbey Lane and Abbey Street. Built in 1990, there are six duplex buildings on this site. One three-bedroom apartment has full handicap accessibility. The Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) provides on-site 24-hour staffing in a duplex apartment building at 9 and 11 Abbey Lane. The apartments are home for eight program participants. Built in 1990, each apartment has four bedrooms and is fully handicap accessible. The Housing Authority has property management responsibilities and DMR is responsible for oversight of the day-to-day operations.

Nine Massachusetts Rental Voucher Programs and one Department of Mental Program unit are located at Riverboat Village Apartments, Riverboat Village Road. The Housing Authority's responsibility is program administration and Riverboat Village is responsible for on-site property management.

In FY07 the Housing Authority completed the Newton Manor Apartments road resurfacing and parking expansion project. Road resurfacing and parking expansions are the final phases of the three-year electrical upgrade project. The electrical upgrade project included replacing electrical baseboards and circuit breakers in the forty apartments at Newton Manor. Replacing the electrical transformers, installing a direct-wired fire and smoke detector system in the apartments and community center was also completed. The Department of Housing & Development approved a \$465,000.00 capital improvement grant for the electrical upgrade, road resurfacing and parking expansion project.

The South Hadley Housing Authority is a small agency with two administrative and two maintenance full time employees. The Executive Director and Executive Assistant are responsible for the daily administrative operations. A Maintenance Supervisor and Maintenance Mechanic are responsible for the maintenance of the Housing Authority properties. On occasion, when required, the housing authority will use contractors or subcontractors to augment the maintenance responsibilities and for capital improvement projects.

On May 18, 2007, the groundbreaking ceremony for the Section 202 Supportive Senior Housing Development was held at the Canal Street site. Upon completion the Senior Housing Development will be home for forty-four seniors. This low income affordable housing development will provide on the site supportive services and is scheduled to open in the spring of FY08.

Two duly elected, two interim local appointees and a Governor appointee, serve as Housing Authority commissioners. The Commissioners are: Constance Clancy, Chair, Donna Asselin, Vice-Chair, Marguerite

Clancy, Treasurer, Donna Robideau, Assistant Treasurer and Mary Dufault, Member.

The commissioners meet in regularly @ 4:00 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month. The Housing Authority's annual reorganization meeting is held the second Wednesday in the month of April.

Respectfully Submitted,

Willie J. Thomas, Executive Director
Marlene Mondor, Executive Assistant
Craig Osborne, Maintenance Supervisor
David Ludwig, Maintenance Mechanic

Board of Assessors

The Board of Assessors works to deliver fair and equitable assessments on all real and personal property within the Town. The Assessor's office maintains an extensive database of property information. This in-depth information is available to the public for review daily in the Assessor's Office. Copies of this information are also available to the public at reasonable or no cost.

In February, in an effort to make some of this information more accessible to the public, a computer terminal was installed. In this way folks can access information at their convenience during normal business hours without having to wait for assistance from staff. This has turned out to be a valuable tool not only for the general public but also for other departments as well.

This fiscal year not only was the counter terminal installed but the valuation software that is used by our department was upgraded at the same time. This change also included going from a stand-alone terminal (single use only) to a network of four terminals (including the counter terminal) and one server. This has had a positive effect on the timeliness of data entry changes, as there are multiple terminals to meet the needs of the multiple users within the department.

In FY07 the Department continued to improve upon policies and procedures to create better efficiency within the office. One example of this is through the creation of an ownership database. This allows easy research by owner, property location or map and parcel. At present, if the person is not the current owner, multiple reports must be run to determine if they ever owned property. Another area of improvement is with the creation of another database for property tax exemptions. Previously all forms (at least one per application) and the four-page application itself were hand written. The efficiency of this database was demonstrated when the Commonwealth increased the exemption amount provided for service-connected disabled veterans effective for Fiscal 2007. Until this time, when a change like this was made, forms and applications had to be changed manually. Now, amounts were simply updated

on a specific table and it changed all the forms and applications accordingly.

Finally, Fiscal 2007 was a revaluation year for the Town. The final two months of this process was very trying at best. There were changes at the state level that made the process more difficult than in years past. This was only one of many issues that arose. Also, obtaining the District #2 valuation information from the Town of Granby to be able to set the tax rate almost held up the approval process for this District. This alone took over a month. With diligent effort by all parties involved, the revaluation was completed, tax rates were set and the actual tax bills were issued on time. The Fiscal 2007 approved tax rates are \$11.85 Town, \$1.46 Fire District #1 and \$1.43 Fire District #2. Once the tax bills were issued it was difficult to explain to taxpayers the increase in valuations during a somewhat declining market.

A comparison of valuations by class for Fiscal 2006 and 2007 are shown below:

	Fiscal 2006	Fiscal 2007	% Change
Residential	\$ 1,255,576,565	\$ 1,405,229,955	11.9%
Open	\$ 219,200	\$ 227,100	3.6%
Commercial	\$ 70,816,835	\$ 78,316,345	10.6%
Industrial	\$ 41,016,500	\$ 40,666,500	-0.9%
Personal	\$ 14,379,499	\$ 16,112,248	12.1%

The Board of Assessors strives to promote public understanding of the Assessors office as well as its work efforts to the general public. Our office hopes that the public would contact us with any questions they have. The Board would like to remind the general public that most of the information in our office is public and it is the Board's hope that people feel free to come in and look up information regarding real estate within the Town. Answers to numerous questions are also available on the Town's website at www.southhadley.org.

The work involved in the Assessor's office is of a complex nature and could not be accomplished without the staff within the Department. To them we say thank you. In addition, the cooperation and assistance of all the department heads, supervisors and their staff are sincerely appreciated.

In closing, the Board of Assessors is once again pleased to represent the Town of South Hadley as an elected board and self-governing body, and we will do our best to treat all taxpayers fairly and equitably during our tenure.

Respectfully submitted,

Hazel R. Snopek, Chair
Francis M. Conti, Clerk

David E. Hutchinson, Member

OFFICE STAFF:

Melissa L. Couture, Associate Assessor
Irene Greenia, Assistant to the Associate Assessor
Maureen Cronin, Senior Clerk

Veteran Services Department

The Veterans Services Department provided financial and medical assistance to 20 South Hadley residents during the period of July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. The Department expended a total of \$71,721.00 in the areas of budget and fuel assistance, medical insurance, and burial benefits.

Reimbursement of veteran's benefits from the Commonwealth amounting to \$53,791.00 is anticipated. The Department assisted 25 South Hadley residents in receiving annuity benefits from the Commonwealth amounting to \$50,000.00.

Over 20 South Hadley residents were assisted with Department of Veterans Affairs claims during FY07. As a result of these claims, \$141,000.00 was received in annual benefits, and \$24,000.00 was received in retroactive benefits for a total of \$165,000.00. Six veterans were assisted in securing a cemetery plot in the Veterans Cemetery in Agawam. The Office was also instrumental in coordinating Memorial Day, Flag Day, and Veterans' Day programs.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. O'Connor
Director of Veteran's Services

South Hadley Public Library

<http://www.shadleylib.org>

This past year continued the library's recent trend of blending tradition with change as the library welcomed new staff members and introduced new services while celebrating the Centennial Anniversary of the Andrew Carnegie-funded library building at the corner of Gaylord & Bardwell streets.

Welcomed to the staff were Liz Frosch-Dratfield as Circulation Assistant, Jennifer Comeau as Administrative Assistant, and Elaine LaPorte as Custodian. All have quickly become valued members of the library team. Best wishes were extended to Lisa St. Sauveur, Louise Bevan-Cole, and Teri Wilkinson as they moved on to new career opportunities.

The Library Trustees were actively engaged in a search for a new Library Director during the 2006 summer months. Connie Clancy graciously came out of retirement to serve as Interim Director during this time and brought much

needed professionalism, experience, and stability to the position. The nine-member Trustee board, along with patron representative Brian Duncan and staff representative Lorraine Ensor formed the Library Director Search Committee to evaluate and interview candidates. Following an extensive search, Joseph Rodio was selected as Library Director and assumed his duties in September.

A highlight of improved services was the introduction of wireless Internet access. With this service, the public can bring their personal computers to the library and take advantage of high-speed connectivity while enjoying the convenience of their own files and programs. The staff also worked hard to make the most efficient use of increasingly cramped working conditions by moving the “on hold” items behind the circulation desk for better privacy and control, eliminating some outdated furniture to create additional space for the public, and reorganizing the movie collection to create a family-friendly corner of children’s and family films. The library received a Staff Development grant to conduct a full-day workshop on teamwork and communication. A highly successful American Sign Language class was presented by Circulation Assistant Desiree Smelcer, a youth Chess Club formed, Circulation Assistant Liz Frosch-Dratfield organized a weekly needlework group, monthly personal finance presentations were given by local Dollar Scholar Sue Nimchick, and the adult book discussion group resumed regular meetings. The library also added a new online database, Learning Express Library, a comprehensive platform of practice tests and tutorial courses designed to help students and adult learners succeed on academic or licensing tests.



Youth Services Librarian Meg Clancy coordinated the library’s annual summer reading program under the theme “What’s Buzzin’ at Your Library”. Three hundred and sixty-six children and young adults enjoyed themselves in this year’s program. The kick-off event was popular storyteller Tom McCabe. For the seventh year weekly bingo games were held in the Multi-Purpose Room, with 300 children playing over the course of the summer.

Plains School principal Jill Flanders and several kindergarten and first grade teachers read at weekly story times – a great way to introduce children to their new teachers. Other programs included an ice cream social in conjunction with the 100th Anniversary Committee, the Wingmasters Birds of Prey program, several craft programs, and a monarch butterfly display and release party in partnership with Douglas Fleury. Finally, the end of summer skating party was a great success due in part to Bill Hoefler, owner of InterSkate 91 who generously donated his rink to participants – 108 children and adults enjoyed an evening of skating, raffles, and refreshments.

The 100th Anniversary Committee, comprised of Cathy Allen, Connie Clancy, Meg Clancy, Larry Fuller, Nancy Reale, and Carole Sullivan welcomed acclaimed author Suzanne Strempek-Shea and capped off the centennial year with a grand birthday party featuring speeches, a proclamation presented by Representative John Scibak, music by David Lettellier, and fun for the kids from Zipper the Clown.

Among this bustling activity, the staff and Trustees paused to mourn the loss of longtime custodian Clyde Ensor. Clyde’s deep care for the library building, staff and patrons was expressed through his strong work ethic and gentle manner. The library also mourned the loss of Trustee Doris Peloquin.

Finally, special recognition goes to the library staff: Meg Clancy, Jennifer Comeau, Lorraine Ensor, Liz Frosch-Dratfield, Jeanne Hebert, Elaine LaPorte, Linda Manijak, Desiree Smelcer, Rena Stromgren, and Bob Williford. These people make the South Hadley Public Library a special place for the community and provide quality customer service and public programs while scanning over 300,000 circulation transactions at the front desk, processing over 27,000 inter-library loan transactions, and supervising almost 15,000 individual computer sessions. Their tireless efforts are greatly appreciated and put the library in a position to make great strides in its second century of service!

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Rodio
Library Director

Gaylord Memorial Library

We will remember 2007 as the year that Gaylord Library completed its long-awaited leap into the technological age by computerizing the Library’s catalog and circulation systems to better serve South Hadley’s readers. Thanks to a generous matching gift of \$15,000 from an anonymous donor, and many smaller donations from library lovers, Gaylord Library has been able to purchase five new Dell Optiplex computers and Follet’s Destiny Library

Automation Software program. But these purchases were only the start of our project...

Staff and volunteers have spent countless hours preparing the library's materials for automation –carefully recording information for each item's bibliographic record (and we have over 15,000 items), entering data into the system, and finally, affixing barcodes to each item. We have been working for over a year on this project, and we plan to "go live" in September 2007, just in time for the rush of students and other new members of the community who wish to get library cards. The new cards are bar-coded to make check-out more efficient, and patrons will search for their materials, not in our card catalog, but on Destiny's computerized catalog. Searching the catalog can also be performed from home computers by visiting Gaylord Library's web site: www.gaylordlibrary.org.

We are delighted to be able to offer the benefits of faster, more accurate service to the residents of South Hadley. Though we know that one or two of our patrons may find themselves nostalgic for the card catalog and antiquated charging system, the staff and volunteers who work behind the scenes know this new software will make it possible for staff to track circulation, renewals, reserves, inventory, and perform other library management tasks more quickly and accurately. To all who contributed time and/or financial support to this exciting project, we say, "thank you."

Our donors and supporters are a vital part of the Library's successful operation. Fundraising is ongoing - the Annual Campaign raised \$8,350.00, our Columbus Day Book Sale, in spite of being held inside due to construction in the Center, raised \$1,675.00 (with leftover materials being donated to libraries affected by Katrina and to the South Hadley DPW's Hands Across America project), Gaylord Friends' Wine, Cheese and Chocolate event and basket raffle raised \$1,800.00, and we received many other generous gifts throughout the year from our Board of Trustees and other friends. Descendants of William and Betsey Gaylord contributed several hundred dollars to start a fund to be used to restore their elegant portraits hanging in the Library's Rotunda, which are in need of conservation. These contributions, combined with approximately 1,700 hours of volunteer service provided by our dedicated group, helped to make it possible to circulate more than 16,000 books, magazines, movies, audiobooks, and learning kits and to answer over 1,000 reference questions.

In addition to borrowing materials and finding information, there are many other opportunities to be engaged in the Library. Visitors enjoy book groups, weekly Knitting and Memoir Writing groups, Friday Tea Time, author visits such as those by Dina Friedman and Winston Lavalley, and "South Hadley Reads...", a collaborative series of programs offered by Gaylord Library, South Hadley Public Library, South Hadley

Council on Aging and Odyssey Bookshop which included seven events based on the book Rocket Boys by Homer Hickam: Three book discussions, a film at Tower Theater, two children's programs, and a talk by former NASA astronaut Dan Barry, all sponsored by Peoples Bank.

Our Youth Services Department is glad to serve the youngest members of our community. We offered 65 programs which were attended by 1,555 children of all ages, including groups such as the South Hadley Family Center, Stony Brook Preschool and local Girl Scout troops. This year's Summer Reading Program, "Catch the Beat @ Your Library", sponsored in part by Western Massachusetts Regional Library System, was kicked off with a dance and drumming duo funded by Gaylord Friends and South Hadley Cultural Council. This popular program encourages children to keep up their reading skills during the summer for a successful start back to school in the Fall.

Improvements to our building this year, in addition to the installation of five new computers for the Library's automation project, include an alarm system donated by Library Trustee Matt McDonough, bookcases and a computer desk donated by Library Trustee Joe Marois, a solid oak computer stand constructed by students at Lower Pioneer Valley Career and Technical Education Center, two new signs donated by Gaylord Friends, and selected interior and exterior painting, repair, and other improvements by our new Building and Grounds Supervisor, Dan MacKenzie and assistant Tim Grip.

In addition to those named above, the Gaylord Library Board of Trustees, Director, and Youth Services Librarian would like to thank the Town of South Hadley and Selectboard for its continued support. Special thanks go to South Hadley Public Library, Council on Aging, Chamber of Commerce, DPW, Historical Society, and Dan Evans - MIS Director, Gaylord Friends, Odyssey Bookshop, Mount Holyoke College, our many generous financial supporters, our dedicated group of volunteers, and our library patrons whom we are always so happy to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Quigley, Director
Mary Senecal, Youth Services Librarian
Board of Trustees:
Jeffrey Barna
Marilyn Gass
Margaret Jodoin
Sara Lawrence
Joseph Marois
Matthew McDonough
Priscilla Ryan
Patricia Scibak
Joyce Roberts
Bernice Strong
Charles Viens

Wiring Inspector

The time has once again arrived for a report on the work completed by the Office of Wiring Inspector for Fiscal Year 2007. There were 352 permit applications issued and a total \$22,704.00 collected in fees.

Alarm Systems	35
New Homes & Condos	22
Additions & Remodeling	95
Above-Ground Pools	18
In-Ground Pools	5
Service Upgrades & Repairs	96
Temporary Services	4
Appliances (A/C, dryers, oil burners, etc.)	36
Commercial Work	40
Yearly, Prepaid (Mount Holyoke College)	1

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Rivers
Wiring Inspector

Board of Appeals

The Board of Appeals has had no applications for appeals from an administrative decision or variances during the past year. Martha Terry and Pamela Lannon have attended trainings by the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative and the Massachusetts Federation of Planning and Appeals Boards.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha R. Terry, Chair/Clerk

Town Clerk

Vital Statistics for the Town of South Hadley
Calendar Year 2006

Marriages

Total Number of Marriages 2006	96
Oldest Groom	81
Oldest Bride	82
Youngest Groom	19
Youngest Bride	19
Total Number of Marriages 2005	99

Deaths

Total Number of Deaths 2006	224
Under one (1) year	0
From 1 to 20 years	1
From 21 to 49 years	12
From 50 to 69 years	25
From 70 to 90 years	183

From 91 to 100 years	3
From 101 to 105 years	0
Total Number of Deaths 2005	235

Births

Total Number of Births 2006	136
Total Number of Males	80
Total Number of Females	56
Total Number of Births 2005	123

Other Records FY 2007

Fish & Game Licenses Sold	\$21,415.60
Dog Licenses Sold	\$10,465.50
Vital Records	\$8,587.00
Other	\$2,598.00
Marriage Licenses	\$1,400.00
Population Town Census	14,559
Population (Federal 2000)	17,196
Registered Voters	10,537

Conservation Commission

Between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 the Commission met almost biweekly (22 times) to hold 42 Public Hearings and 19 Public Meetings on proposed projects. We received 15 new Notices of Intent and 18 new Requests for Determination during that time period. In addition we issued six Amendments and seven Extensions to Orders of Conditions, seven Certificates of Compliance, and approved 31 Building Permits for 46 units. All of the wetland applications required plan review, site visits, legal notices, public meetings or hearings, issuance of Orders or Determinations, and monitoring. It has been a busy year. Annual town meeting approved an increase in the hours for the Administrator in FY 2008 from 25 to 30 hours to help with the workload.

Major projects that broke ground this year include new residential developments at Mountainbrook, Stonybrook Village, an Eldercare facility on Canal Street, and a new residence hall at Mount Holyoke College. New projects approved but not yet started include the Mount Holyoke College boathouse, the new clubhouse at the Ledges Golf Course, demolition of the Texon building, construction of Riverside Park along the Connecticut River in the Falls, demolition of the old state pool at Buttery Brook Park, and improvements to the municipal sewerage system for South Hadley and Granby. Continuing projects include Shadowbrook Condominium construction, the Town Common project, a tire dump cleanup, and many smaller construction projects in town.

The Conservation Administrator continues to monitor active projects around town for adherence to their Order of Conditions, attends meetings on town issues, advises the

public and the Commission on administrative procedures, and offers Conservation Department input on various topics such as the Open Space Plan and Planning Board filing reviews. She attended a Time Management Seminar, a two-day ArcGIS training session, and several DEP workshops on implementing state wetland regulations.

The Conservation Commission is working on the regulations for the Town's wetlands bylaw, trail and land management issues on conservation land, expansion of the landfill, and ticketing procedures for enforcement of violations under the town wetland bylaw. The Commission received a state grant for 50 signs to keep ATVs off conservation land. Volunteers helped install some of these signs on different conservation areas. The Commission asks for the help of neighbors to report motorized vehicles entering a conservation area to the police, so they can catch these people who are ruining the land meant for the benefit of all.

Respectfully submitted,

John Fleming, Chair
Dennis Swartwout, Vice-Chair
James Canning, Secretary
W. Bradford Allen, Commissioner
Pam Lannon, Commissioner
Jacob Masenior, Associate Commissioner
Arthur Jackson, Associate Commissioner

Janice Stone, Conservation Administrator
Linda Scott, Clerk



One of many hundreds of Lady Slippers at Black Stevens Conservation Area each spring.



ATV riders forging new paths on Bynan Conservation land, next to trails already damaged by motorized vehicles.

Intervenor Status Committee

The Intervenor Status Committee (ISC) was formed by the Selectboard in 1995 to advise the Town on the relicensing of the hydroelectric facilities at the Holyoke Dam. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license to the Holyoke Water Power Company (HWP) for the Project in August 1999. Subsequent to issuance of the license, the dam and the license were transferred in 2001 from HWP to Holyoke Gas & Electric (HG&E). As a result of the efforts by the ISC and other Town officials, the license included certain conditions binding on the license holder which affect the Town regarding Channel Marking, the Texon Building redevelopment, creation of a riverfront park, Cove Island, and erosion control.

Development of the Comprehensive Recreation & Land Management Plan (CRLMP) in consultation with numerous parties including the Town of South Hadley was a key condition imposed on the license holder by FERC. Intended to address the dam's impacts on the impoundment area, this plan interconnects many of the other conditions and issues involved with relicensing of the Holyoke Dam.

The past year saw the ISC continue efforts toward implementation of the license, CRLMP, and related project plans. In this vein, the ISC functions more in the capacity as a mechanism for coordinating the various departments and agencies of the Town that have jurisdiction over specific aspects of the licensee's activities.

During the twelfth year of its functioning, the ISC concentrated on efforts to have Holyoke Gas & Electric comply with requirements of the CRLMP and the license. While the year began with a clear path for demolition of the Texon Building and development of a system of parks stretching from the Gatehouse above the dam to the Bridge, conditions changed when a Holyoke developer

with experience in redeveloping mill buildings expressed interest in redeveloping the Texon Building. Accordingly, our efforts chiefly focused on insuring that the recreational improvements are planned and undertaken in accordance with South Hadley's priorities while not impeding the potential redevelopment of the Texon Building. The Selectboard and members of the ISC have supported the Texon redevelopment effort and the ISC continues to work with the prospective developer. Designation of the Economic Target Area in April will enhance the possibility of a positive result from this effort.

The Members of ISC, Selectboard members, and the Town Administrator continued to participate in meetings regarding the license requirements including development of plans for the Riverfront Park. Efforts have been undertaken to expedite the various approvals required for the riverfront park to be developed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Scibak

Ted Belsky

Richard Constant

Janice Stone

Richard Harris

James Reidy

Patricia Vinchesi

Recreation Commission

The Recreation Commission gratefully acknowledges the hundreds of volunteers who assisted us in implementing all of our programs and activities. These people include coaches, officials, board members and officers and those who assisted in various fundraisers. Their time and effort allows us to provide a wide array of activities in meeting the community's recreation needs. Groups such as South Hadley Youth Football, South Hadley Youth Cheerleading, South Hadley Boys Lacrosse and South Hadley Summer Baseball were instrumental in their sports operation and enjoyment. The Department was proud to add Elizabeth Stieg to its staff in her role as Recreation Assistant and our Senior Clerk Gert Sugrue's hours were increased to 35 per week.

RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS: The Recreation Department is extremely proud of its participation in all of its programs. In conjunction with the Summer Baseball Committee and members of the South Hadley High School baseball team, the Recreation Department held its inaugural Baseball Field Day and Pepsi Pitch, Hit and Run competition at the Beachgrounds. This event was attended by hundreds of players and spectators and was enjoyed by all. The group looks forward to expanding this event in future years. The Recreation Department is proud to have solid relationships with many of the high school teams for events like this such as football's "Practice with the Tigers" and youth games at halftime during the high school varsity games. The Baseball Committee continued to improve the baseball facilities in town with the installation of sod and irrigation at the Beachgrounds baseball field. Once again, John Broderick, Jeff Cyr and

Bill Simard were instrumental in this project. The Boys Lacrosse Association worked hard to purchase new uniforms for the entire organization and to provide equipment to new players to give them a chance to experience the sport. Our dance classes were expanded to include the Hustle and West Coast Swing under the direction of our new professional dance instructor, Reisa Alexander.

The Department continued to work with the Pool Study Committee to bring a new Aquatic Facility to Buttery Brook Park and a new Water Park to the Beachgrounds. The Lion's Club donated \$3,000.00 towards the Beachgrounds project and Village Eye Care donated another \$1,000.00. In June 2007, the Recreation Department and Selectboard began work on an Urban Self Help grant to improve the entire Beachgrounds facility. This grant seeks to create a new water park, playground area, picnic area overlooking the Connecticut River and improve the ball fields and basketball court. Another achievement was that a Community Tennis Association was created to further the sport of tennis and look into the feasibility of building tennis courts at Buttery Brook Park.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES: *Youth sports offerings* included: baseball, basketball, softball, tee-ball, field hockey, football, soccer, cheerleading, swimming, team tennis, lacrosse and wrestling. *Summer sports camps* included: baseball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, golf clinics, tennis lessons and summer creations. *Adult offerings* included: Aquacise, yoga, body sculpt, ballroom dancing (traditional ballroom, West Coast Swing, Hustle), volleyball, basketball, and softball. *Bus trips* took us to Fenway Park, Yankee Stadium, New York City for a December shopping trip, New York City for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Lynn for Horizon's Edge Casino Cruises and Tanglewood for James Taylor.

SPECIAL EVENTS: The Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration was held on July 3rd at the Michael E. Smith Middle School. The major corporate sponsor of the event was Peoples Bank and they have been committed to be the sole corporate sponsor for years to come. Generous donations were also received from the following major sponsors: South Hadley Lions Club, Metras Insurance, Beers and Story Funeral Homes, Easthampton Savings Bank. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Hat Parade was held at Buttery Brook and was extremely successful once again. We would like to say thank you to Kim Du Bois for her special role at the event.

Mark E. Du Bois received the Joseph Taylor Volunteer of the Year Award at the annual Town Meeting. Mr. Du Bois was the past President of the South Hadley Youth Football Association and the current President of BASH and has spent countless hours fundraising for various recreation-related causes in town.

In closing, the Recreation Commission extends its fondest appreciation to all the Town departments who had a hand in our successes: Department of Public Works and Parks Department, Police, Fire Districts #1 & #2, Water Department, School Department and Selectboard.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Lynes, Chair	Allan Tracy
Amy Foley, Vice Chair	<u>Recreation Staff:</u>
Patrick Dawson	Andrew Rogers, Director
Mark Du Bois	Elizabeth Steig, Assistant
Ron Michalski	Gert Sugrue, Senior Clerk
Ken Mruk	

Board of Health

The primary responsibility of the local Board of Health is to respond and act on any situation that may affect the health and safety of the general public. Most of our duties are contained within many statutes, including mandatory licensing and inspection programs.

The Board of Health continues to respond to, and educate the public about health issues such as Hepatitis A, Rabies, Lyme disease, West Nile Virus and salmonella through local press releases and our cable TV Channel 15.

The Board of Health has spent time this past year on the landfill, updating and enforcing Tobacco Control by-laws. Our Public Health Director is chair of the Mount Tom Tobacco Coalition that include the towns/cities of Easthampton, Granby, Hatfield, Holyoke, Northampton, Southampton, and South Hadley. This program promotes policy initiatives and enforces laws to reduce Youth Access. A Mercury Recycling Program was implemented to include all permitted establishments. The program will be used as a model for other Boards of Health. Other initiatives include joining the Hampshire, Hampden & Franklin County Hoarding Task Force and sponsoring educational classes for local direct responders and the general public, creating the Town of South Hadley's Health Department's Continuity of Operations Plan to enhance our capacity to share resources and respond to public health threats, and working with the Recycling Coordinator and a UMASS/MDPH intern to take prescription drugs out of the waste stream.

During the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007 the Board of Health issued the following permits:

<u>PERMITS</u>	<u>FEES</u>
Food Service Permits	\$14,900.00
Retail/Mobile/Catering/Bakery Permits	2,800.00
Milk Permits	170.00
Camp/Pool Permits	1,575.00
Health Establishment Permits	3,350.00
Burial Permits	1,010.00
Funeral Directors	300.00

Septic Hauler/Installer/Percolation	4,750.00
Ecology Cans	600.00
Tobacco Permits	<u>1,675.00</u>
PERMIT TOTAL	\$31,305.00

Once again, more residents of all ages received immunizations at our two (2) influenza clinics. Numerous blood pressure and glucose screening clinics were conducted throughout the year. Many visits were also made to home-bounds, the uninsured and those neglected and in need of assessment, screenings and referrals.

Our staff (part time Nurse, Gas & Plumbing Inspector, Animal Control Officers) are successful in their efforts because of our strong and supportive three-member Board of Health, who prioritize protecting public health above everything.

We acknowledge and appreciate the assistance and cooperation of all town boards, departments and commissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis D. Nelen, DMD, Chair
Herman J. Picard, DC, Vice-Chair
Ann M. Canata, RN, BS, Clerk
Sharon D. Hart, Director
Debra A. Picard, RN, SBN, Community Health Nurse
Ola L. Herbert, Clerk

Gas and Plumbing Inspector

This year there were a total of 260 plumbing permits and 246 gas permits issued. The amount collected from July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 was \$25,215.00.

The alternate inspector, Barry McPhee, and I have attended several seminars and continuing education classes mostly during evenings and weekends to be current with the minimum safety standards.

Respectfully submitted,

Frederick Marion,
Plumbing & Gas Inspector

Canal Park Committee

The Canal Park Committee continues to focus on the development of two contiguous riverfront parks mandated by the relicense of the Holyoke Dam power station. Last year it seemed that all interested parties from the U. S. Corps of Engineers, the Massachusetts Historical Commission, Holyoke Gas and Electric along with committees representing South Hadley, had all agreed on an exciting plan to develop the area from the Gatehouse just upstream from the Holyoke Dam to the lower county

“Veterans” bridge. That area will provide South Hadley with a riverside park that extends almost one half mile along the Connecticut River.

However, an unexpected offer to buy the Texon property and restore the building by converting it into commercial outlets on the lower floors and upscale apartments on the top floor placed the park plans on hold. As of this date no final decision regarding the status of the Texon property has been made.

While we await the status of the Texon building to be resolved, our committee has focused on improving maintenance at Bicentennial Park which runs along Canal Street from the tip of Cove Island to the overlook adjacent to the Red Cliff Canoe Club. With the help of the DPW repairs have been made to the deck of the overlook.

Our spring cleanup was most successful. The river debris brought onto the park by the Spring Freshet presented a challenge due to the huge logs that floated onto the walking trail. But thanks to Bill Bacis who took on the responsibility for maintaining the park, the overlook and trails are once again in excellent condition.

Under the direction of Nancy Howard and Dave Rundle, a number of high school students joined our spring cleanup and removed much of the invasive plant species that had grown as a threat to the regular vegetation. Plans have been made to introduce appropriate trees to enhance the beauty of the grounds around the overlook and simultaneously control undesirable vegetation.

We are most pleased that several members of the condominiums in the area have joined our extended committee. With their help and that of the DPW we have enlarged the parking area non-motorized boating enthusiasts use to gain access to our dock.

And last, we look forward to meeting our new neighbors who will be residents of the elderly housing now being constructed on Canal Street. We are sure they will find the park a real asset to residential environment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Belsky, Co-Chair
Ellie Klepacki, Co-Chair

Cable Television and Information Technology Advisory Committee

This past year saw an increase in programming produced by members of the community, more technological upgrades and a great deal of school related activity. Channel 15's Studio Manager, Tom Adams and production Associate, Dan Pease, also edited, directed and produced a

great deal of new programming for town and school organizations.

Channel 15's website (web.mac.com/shctv15) continues to be a great resource for residents featuring program schedules (updated weekly) and frequently-asked-questions, forms, photos, videos clips and other information related to South Hadley.

GREATER SOUTH HADLEY COMMUNITY

The following is a short list of programs produced “in-house” and/or by several of the key “independent producers” in town (Pauline Casey, Kathy Gallivan, Bob Johnson, Linda Young): South Hadley: Past & Present, Memorial Day Parade, Cemetery Arch Installation, Journey of The Soul: Ireland Video Tour, COA Life & Estate Planning, Canal Street Senior Housing Groundbreaking, Buttery Brook Park Ray Faginski Dedication, Bluegrass Festival & Mt. Holyoke College Jazz, Know Your Town (KYT) Global Warming Presentation & Meet the Candidates (twice, this year).

There is an ongoing effort to encourage new “independent producers” from within the community to take advantage of the training and equipment that is available through the studio in order to produce their own programming.



SCHOOL

The following is a sampling of programming produced “in-house” and/or by several of the key “independent student-producers”: Composting/Recycling, Mosier 2007 student slideshow Compilation, DARFUR - 21st Century Genocide slideshow, Mott Haven Rap slideshow, Plains School- Rosa Parks Play & Ann Stanek's Musical Favorites.

Mr. Adams continued to work with the South Hadley High School English Department throughout the year to assist in teaching “Visual Media” student's basic video production and editing skills. Over 20 student programs were produced. In the spring, students took a camera along to document Mrs. Brouillette's class trip to NYC and others used the equipment to document Miss Jaffe's garden/papermaking day. Mr. Adams also worked with Plains and Middle School teachers to produce several music and theater performances highlighting the many talented children of South Hadley.

Mr. Adams assisted students with the producing of their video projects and continued as the Advisor to the extra-curricular club "Tiger Times"- the South Hadley High School student-run TV news program. He also continued to serve as a mentor in the High School's "Connections" program by supervising student production assistants in their internship program.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Zahm, Chair
Constance Clancy
William Collins
Gregory Gauthier

Dale Johnston
Robert Pueschel
Aaron Soule

Building Commissioner

During the period of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, the Building Department issued 466 building permits and 101 Certificates of Inspection. A total of \$111,776.85 was turned over to the Town Treasurer for building permit fees with an estimated value of \$42,734,737.00 for improvements. We also issued 449 Tag Sale Permits (\$4,505.00) and 196 Burning Permits (\$1,960.00).

	<u>PERMITS</u>	<u>FEES</u>
Above Ground Pools	21	325.00
Additions	39	7634.40
Alterations	68	4773.00
Cell Tower	2	300.00
Deck	13	523.40
Demolition	18	420.00
Fence	22	374.00
Foundation	1	336.00
Garage	9	1,401.00
In-ground Pool	7	350.00
New Commercial	2	30,455.00
New Condo	7	5,687.60
New Homes	19	21,684.60
Other	6	18,982.00
Porch	2	60.00
Ramp	4	64.00
Remodel	4	235.00
Repair	11	370.00
Retaining Wall	1	10.00
Roof	93	2,714.00
Shed	29	540.00
Siding	17	460.00
Sign Permit	10	439.00
Storage (Temporary)	1	20.00
Stove	18	390.00
Sunroom	9	400.85
Tent (temporary)	1	20.00
Windows	32	750.00
Certificate of Inspection	101	12,058.00
Total	567	111,776.85

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Reno
Building Commissioner

Planning Board

The Planning Board is pleased to submit its 70th Annual Report to the citizens of South Hadley. The Board welcomed the addition of Ann Griffin who was appointed to fill the newly created Associate Member post on the Planning Board.

The Planning Board consists of five unpaid, elected members who serve staggered five (5) year terms. The Board's mission is to assist the community in efforts to achieve balanced growth, quality development, and preservation of community assets through effective development regulation, assist in obtaining funding resources for community projects, and long-term planning. Direct staff support in carrying out this mission is provided by Town Planner Richard Harris and Secretary Doris Leclair with additional assistance and advice provided by Building Commissioner Steve Reno, other Town Departments, Boards, and Commissions, and the Fire Districts and their Water Departments.

Maintaining and administering the Town's Zoning By-Laws and Subdivision Regulations is a major responsibility of the Board. The Board makes recommendations to Town Meeting on proposed amendments to the Zoning By-Law and Zoning Map.

Public hearings are conducted by the Board on applications for Special Permits, Site Plan Reviews, subdivision proposals and Zoning By-Law and Subdivision Regulation amendments. In carrying out its responsibilities the Board coordinates and works closely with other Town boards and departments in review of applications for land use and development in Town. This process ensures that a proposed development is consistent with Town regulations and that each developer's performance fulfills the terms agreed upon.

The Planning Board initiated its efforts to develop a new Comprehensive Plan by soliciting proposals for consultants to assist in this effort. Working with the Conservation Commission Administrator, Recreation Director, and other town officials, the Town Planner completed a draft of the Recreation and Open Space Plan update which will serve as a basis for a portion of the Comprehensive Planning effort. Additionally, working with the Town Administrator and other Town departments, the Board participated in an Economic Development Self-Assessment through Northeastern University. This Self-Assessment is an essential step in the Board's efforts to support the Town's economic development goals and will also serve as an integral component of the economic development planning efforts as part of the Comprehensive

Planning process. Town Meeting appropriated the second installment of \$35,000 for the 3-year \$100,000 project.

In other efforts to support the Town's comprehensive planning and economic development objectives, the Planning Department continued its work with the Selectboard and the Town Administrator to develop an Economic Target Area (ETA) for South Hadley. State designation of the ETA was granted April 25, 2007. While the ETA encompasses most of South Hadley, the focus of the program is on the South Hadley Falls area.

Continuing its efforts to make improvements to the Zoning Bylaw, the Board obtained Town Meeting approval of two minor amendments to the Zoning Bylaw at the Fall 2006 Special Town Meeting. However, with the work on the Comprehensive Plan looming, the Board took a significant step of deciding not to submit any new Zoning Bylaw amendments for the May 2007 Annual Town Meeting. The Board believes that major Zoning Bylaw and Map amendments should derive from the Comprehensive Planning process.

Despite the comprehensive planning and economic development efforts and the overall slowdown in the economy, especially in the housing sector, development management activities continued to play a dominant role in the Board's functions. The Town Planner played an active role in the Development Review Team (DRT) established by the Town Administrator. The DRT, which consists of various Town departments and representatives of SHELDT, the Fire Chiefs, and the Water Superintendent, meets monthly to review proposed developments and issues associated with ongoing developments.

The Planning Board approved and/or endorsed with conditions four (4) Special Permits for a diverse range of uses (4-unit apartment development, home occupation, new professional business, and an additional cellular antenna location); five (5) Site Plans (including a proposed 7,400 square foot warehouse, redevelopment of the Mount Holyoke College athletic fields, expansion of a church, expansion of a day care facility, and development of the Mount Holyoke College Boathouse); two (2) conventional Definitive Subdivision plans (accounting for 2 new single-family building lots), one (1) Preliminary Subdivision plan for 8 new building lots, and five (5) Approval Not Required Plans (to create 9 new building lots and adjust lot lines on other properties). All of these projects are expected to add a total of sixteen (16) new building lots and four (4) apartment units. The Board also waived Special Permit/Site Plan Review requirements for additions/alterations to 5 nonconforming, single-family dwellings and two (2) commercial buildings. Minor modifications for conditions to five (5) Special Permits were approved.

Fees totaling \$10,546.03 were collected by the Planning Department for applications, inspections, reviews, and

copies. This represented a dramatic decrease from the previous year's revenues, reflecting a decline in the development activity and the substantial amount of development reviews conducted in the previous year. Inspection fees for subdivisions accounted for over half of the total fees collected. Over one-fourth of the fees were paid for Subdivision or ANR Plan submittals. Site Plan, Special Permits, Sign Reviews, and waiver requests accounted for approximately 13% of the fees while Installment payments for Major Earth Removal projects accounted for less than 3% of the fees. A breakdown of the fees for FY 2006 is provided below:

	<u>July 2006 - June 2007</u>
Approval Not Required (ANR) Plans	\$ 1,125.00
Preliminary/Definitive/Form H Subdivisions	1,300.00
Special Permits/Waivers	1,475.00
Site/Exempt/Sign Plan Reviews/Waivers	2,219.60
Earth Removal	2,000.00
Notification of Abutters	1,160.96
Inspection Fees	275.00
Miscellaneous Fees	<u>991.07</u>
TOTAL	\$10,546.03

An additional \$2,500 was deposited to fund a Peer Review for a proposed change in the Mountainbrook project. Funds for Peer Reviews are used for the Peer Review and any remaining funds are refunded to the applicant.

The Board made recommendations on three articles for the Special Town Meeting held in October 2006 including one request for a zone change which was withdrawn. One of the articles approved in October 2006 was to allow limited retail as part of a Professional Business Special Permit while the other article clarified the requirements for a Special Permit to alter a nonconforming structure.

Working with other boards is also a major function of the Planning Board. The Board and Town Planner continue to work with other Boards and departments as they review plans and proposed developments and to expand the Geographical Information System's utility to the community. In closing, the Planning Board would like to express its gratitude to the other Boards and Committees in Town for their cooperation and assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan Rosner, Chair
Thomas Callahan, Vice-Chair
Natalie Keng, Financial Secretary
Mark Cavanaugh, Clerk

Ralph Blank, Member
Ann Griffin, Associate Member
Richard Harris, Town Planner
Doris Leclair, Senior Clerk

Report of the Public Schools

Personnel

In March Chairman Roddy Adams was elected to a new three-year term on the School Committee. John O'Neill moved out of town and had to resign from the Committee. At a joint meeting of the School Committee and Selectboard, JoAnn St. Pierre was appointed to fill the vacant seat until the next Town election in March 2008. Dr. Gus Sayer is completing his fourth year as superintendent.

Erica Faginski became Principal of the Michael E. Smith Middle School on July 1, 2007. Bruce Mailhott became Director of Facilities for the school district. Business Manager Candy Walczak received the 2007 President's Award from the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials.

Facilities

The schools carried out several facility projects: The Plains School oil tank was removed from the ground after almost 40 years of use. Gas lines and a burner were installed so that the school can be heated by cleaner, and currently less costly, gas. The original filter at the middle school pool sprang a leak and had to be replaced. The high school boilers required repairs. New gym floors were installed at the high school, following a vandalism incident, and at Mosier School, as a result of damage during a storm in 2006.

The School Building Needs Committee, assisted by architects, Flansburgh and Associates of Boston, presented six options to Town Meeting for construction and/or renovation of the Town's elementary school buildings. Subsequently, Town Meeting appointed an Elementary Schools Building Committee. The Building Committee will work with the Massachusetts School Building Authority to define the most feasible project for meeting the Town's needs for elementary school space in the future. The Building Committee will also seek support from SBA for the State's share of undertaking renovations and/or construction of the elementary schools.

Safety, Security and Health

The Committee agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding among the schools, the Police Department and the District Attorney's Office. Under this MOU the parties agree to share information that would be helpful in preventing criminal activities in the schools and the community. For many years the schools have worked cooperatively with the South Hadley Police Department through the School Resource Officer assigned to the high school.

The schools experienced a rash of bomb threats during the year. These caused school to be suspended on two days at the high school. Students who were found to be responsible for some of these threats received appropriate consequences. The school year was also interrupted when a chemical spill at the edge of town blocked access to school buses, resulting in all schools being cancelled for the day.

The School Committee approved a policy to improve school security. The policy directs the schools to keep all entrances to the building locked during the school day. Admittance at the front entrance will be through buzzer/intercom systems. To further improve security, the School Committee approved the purchase of security cameras for the interior and exterior of the high school. The Committee also submitted a request to the Massachusetts Highway Department to designate the area on Newton Street in front of the high school as a school zone, so that the speed limit could be reduced to 25 mph. Furthermore, it asked for permission to install crossing lights at the crosswalks in front of the high school.

Upon the recommendation of the school nurses and community members, the School Committee approved the purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators for each of the schools.

The Wellness Committee presented a policy that establishes goals for the district to provide a healthy environment for children, including support for developing good dietary habits and promoting lifelong physical activity through its physical education program.

Other significant actions

After a six-year moratorium on travel abroad, the Committee approved a trip for students to Costa Rica in April 2008. Mr. Camilo Rojas, a Spanish Teacher at the high school, will lead the trip. The Committee also approved a trip sponsored by the High School Cultural Exchange Club to England in April 2007. Mrs. Stephanie Viens, a high school History teacher led the trip. Finally, the Committee approved a cultural exchange visit to China for seven students and two middle school Social Studies teachers, Mrs. Jenny Speck-Sherson and Mrs. Laila DiSilvio. This was the culmination of three years of planning to initiate a student exchange program with Hefei Middle School #47 in Hefei, China.

The Committee approved two new courses for the High School Program of Studies: *Theater Arts* and *Papermaking and Book Arts II*. It also increased the physical education requirement to a semester course per year, with the course meeting six times every seven days. Junior and senior athletes who carry full academic schedules will have the option to be exempted from this requirement.

Town meeting approved the School Committee's budget proposal of \$17.9 million for FY08.

Respectfully submitted,

William (Roddy) Adams, Chair
Julia Miller, Vice-Chair
Edward Boisselle
Rochelle Calhoun
JoAnn St. Pierre

Superintendent of Schools

In 2006-07 the schools continued their focus on student achievement. Our MCAS test scores showed some improvement this past year, especially in ELA (English Language Arts) at the middle and high school, and in both ELA and Mathematics at Mosier School. However, the improvements in scores are not yet sufficient to make AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress), as required under NCLB. Teachers and administrators continued to analyze MCAS results in order to develop strategies for improving instruction. The Assistant Superintendent led elementary and middle school curriculum facilitators through the Performance Improvement Mapping System recommended by the Department of Education as a tool for this purpose.

Based on a report about our elementary reading program, we took several steps to strengthen reading instruction in the elementary grades. First, we created the position of K-4 Literacy Coordinator in order to monitor children's reading achievement and to provide professional development in reading instruction for teachers. Dr. Marilyn Antonucci, formerly a reading specialist in Springfield began work as our Literacy Coordinator on May 1. We also hired a third 50% Reading Recovery teacher at Plains School to ensure that all eligible students could be reached by the program. Reading Recovery provides intensive 1:1 instruction to the 20% of first grade students who are at risk for reading failure.

Second, we introduced DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessments in Grades K-4. DIBELS enables teachers to obtain quick assessments of children's reading skills several times each year. By monitoring children's reading progress, teachers can modify reading instruction, based on the assessment results.

Third, teachers pointed out that we do not have adequate current materials to provide a comprehensive, coordinated program in reading. To address the needs for up-to-date instructional materials and better coordination of reading instruction across the elementary grades, teachers will pilot the Scott-Foresman reading program in 2007-08. Following the pilot year, we will decide whether to adopt the program as our reading program or whether to integrate Scott-Foresman materials into our existing K-4 reading program.

We believe that these steps will strengthen reading instruction in our elementary schools and that this will begin to reflect in end-of-year assessments and MCAS scores in another year.

Assistant Superintendent Chris Sweklo led workshops with curriculum facilitators to document our elementary school curriculum, in particular, to show the scope, sequence and alignment with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks standards for Grades K-8. The documentation of curriculum and alignment with standards is preliminary to developing benchmarks for performance in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Toward this end, teachers at the high school have begun to develop common end-of-year tests in mathematics and other curriculum areas.

An emerging goal for the schools is to strengthen programs for students who are not achieving academically, including after-school and summer programs and alternatives to suspension. This goal has many ramifications. The issue of working with students who are not achieving academically begins early in school. We see signs of some students not responding to teachers' expectations, e.g. for homework, as early as Mosier School. The problem escalates in middle school and often marks students for failure by the time they arrive at the high school. There is a strong correlation between poor achievement and poor school attendance, tardiness to school, and disciplinary actions. In the last few years we have tried to support students in several new ways, including the after-school program at the middle school, after-school tutorials at Mosier and the Middle School and Orton-Gillingham 1:1 reading support for dyslexic students. Although all of these resources help children have more successful school experiences, there is no clear evidence yet that they prevent failure (although the Orton-Gillingham tutoring does seem to boost reading achievement). Next year we will work with the District Attorney's Office to implement "School Is Where It's At," a program for improving school attendance. Most students who fail do so because they do not do the work expected of them. Although different strategies have been tried with these students, we need to improve our effectiveness in preventing school failure.

Other significant activities during 2006-07:

- We have formed a Multicultural Education Committee, consisting of staff from Plains, Middle and High Schools. The goal of the committee is to write a set of multicultural education goals for the school system. One highlight of the past school year was an outstanding first grade production of an original play about Rosa Parks, written by parent Martha Guild.
- The Town heard a report from the Elementary Schools Building Needs Committee at Fall Town Meeting. At the request of the School Committee, Town Meeting

established a successor Elementary Schools Building Committee to oversee planning for renovations and/or new construction of elementary schools in South Hadley. This committee will work with the School Building Administration in the development of a plan to meet the space and facility needs of our elementary schools. The SBA is in the process of implementing a new system for reimbursing towns for the costs of school construction and renovation. It may take several years to gain approval of a project to upgrade our elementary school facilities and to complete the project.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Gus A. Sayer
Superintendent of Schools

Tax Collector

Statement of outstanding balances for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2007.

Description	Outstanding Balances
Personal Property	
2007	9,279
2006	1,573
2005	1,227
2004	781
Prior Years	27,848
Real Estate Taxes	
2007	261,732
2006	34,690
2005	8,877
2004	4,275
Prior Years	32,067
Motor Vehicle Excise	
2007	114,223
2006	34,325
2005	19,344
2004	13,264
Prior Years	114,450
Boat Excise All Years	31,937
Rollback Taxes	22,507
Sewer Use Charges	100,224
Curbside Rubbish Charges	22,326

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Baldini
Collector

Town Treasurer July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Balance in Treasury July 1, 2006	\$18,706,314.24
Receipts July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007	
General Fund	\$71,311,830.32
Expenditures July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007	\$70,029,675.50
Balance in Treasury June 30, 2007	\$19,988,469.06

Reconciliation of Treasurer's Cash June 30, 2007

Bank North	\$1,940,455.49
Bank of America	\$350,567.91
UBI Trust Fund	\$625,250.23
UBI Enterprise Funds	\$5,934,290.07
UBI General Fund	\$872,487.65
MMDT	\$131,893.01
People's Bank	\$1,720,692.68
Sovereign Bank	\$1,686,067.43
Bank of Western Mass.	\$383,244.18
Berkshire Bank	\$974,328.77
Unibank	\$3,613,625.16
State Street Bank	\$194,409.73
Citizen's Bank	\$486,084.32
Peoples Bank School Scholarship Funds	\$132,204.35
Merrill Lynch	\$823,085.88
Cash on Hand	\$119,782.20

Total Cash and Investments **\$19,988,469.06**

Information Technology (IT) Department

The Information Technology Department exists to support the Town's technology needs and to establish a direction for the future. It is crucial for the Town to invest in, and keep current with, technology. To that end, a Technology Committee has been formed and given a charge by the Selectboard to determine the future technology direction of the Town. In 2001, a similar committee was formed and successfully developed a technology 'master plan'. This plan resulted in, among many other things, the creation of the Information Technology Department (formerly known as MIS). That plan has been implemented over the last several years. It is time to embark on a similar initiative. It will be very comprehensive in nature, as was the 2001 plan. Many areas will be studied including but not limited to Permitting/GIS, Infrastructure, Emergency Planning, Web development, and Customer Service. This will be a major undertaking and will involve representation from all Town departments as well as the School Department and the Districts. We will strive to make this initiative as successful and effective as the 2001 undertaking. In May, Town Meeting approved the hiring of a Helpdesk/

Computer Technician. The position has become necessary due to the increasing technology in Town. It will allow us to move forward with the many initiatives we will be presented with in the coming years. I sincerely appreciate the Town Meeting members' support in creating this position. As always, the IT Department will continue to seek to leverage technologies which will produce a positive return on investment and result in excellent customer service.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel J. Evans
Information Technology Director

Golf Commission

The past year at the Ledges Golf Club has been an exciting one.

The change made two years ago to replace the maintenance company and have the Town undertake the management of the course is now proving to be very fruitful. The course continues to be one of the best conditioned courses in western Massachusetts. Even more encouraging is that things continue to go forth in a very positive way.

The past year also witnessed approval by Town Meeting for the design and building of a new clubhouse. The Clubhouse Development Committee, headed by Kevin McAllister, has spent countless hours over the past year in the design/bid phase of the clubhouse. The bids are due to be opened in mid August and groundbreaking is scheduled for late October. The clubhouse is scheduled to be complete and ready for the opening of the 2008 season. The clubhouse is the last piece of the puzzle in making Ledges a complete golf course that will attract more leagues, more outings, more members and more daily fee golfers. It is projected that with the addition of the clubhouse deficits should decrease with projections showing that over the next couple of years the course should be able to cover all of its operating expenses as well as hopefully making a contribution toward the bond payment.

Director of Golf Operations, Paul Ryiz, and his assistant, Bryan Fleury, continue to drive the course in a positive direction. The more time they get under their belt the more they are able to do to increase play and revenue. They continue to hold clinics for women and children and have had "special" days for various communities such as Chicopee and UMass as well as our annual South Hadley Day.

Golf course superintendent Mike Fontaine and his crew at International Golf Maintenance (IGM) continue to keep the course in magnificent shape. IGM continues to look for ways to make the course more user friendly by

reducing the rough and clearing some of the brush on certain holes.

As we enter FY '08 we are very optimistic. With the completion of the clubhouse in the spring of 2008 and the outstanding course conditions, the future of Ledges is very encouraging. Revenues should continue to rise with increased play and an increase in green fees.

We thank you for your continued support through these difficult times and ask for your continued support as we work tirelessly toward making our municipal course a very positive asset for the Town of South Hadley.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary W. Smith
Chair

Paul Ryiz
Director of Golf

Human Resources Department

The Human Resources Department is an essential part of the Town and provides support and guidance to department heads/appointing authorities and employees. The Department deals with a wide variety of issues relative to the quality of life in the workplace and seeks to improve the effectiveness of town services by recruiting the best employees.

The Department handled 41 personnel transactions relating to a myriad of positions. This includes retirements, resignations, promotions, reclassifications, transfers, vacancy postings and advertisements, interviewing, selection, and orientation of new employees. The Town had 19 new hires in FY07.

The Personnel Officer acts as the professional advisor to the Personnel Board and this year an Employee Advisory Committee was formed and has met with the Board to discuss workplace issues. The Personnel and Personnel Review Board jointly recommended that the quartile-based plan, which had been implemented for use in allocating the merit increases, be rescinded and this recommendation was approved by the Selectboard at the end of May. The Personnel Officer worked with the Personnel Review Board in the annual performance evaluation process and due to their concerted efforts merit increase recommendations were presented to the Selectboard in mid July. The performance evaluation process was successful this year because of the effort that was shown by all involved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Wolowicz
Personnel Officer/Chief Procurement
Officer